



Date: August 16, 2022

To: Regular and Local Competition Organizers

From: Lauren Moore, Director of Sport Management Administration

**Re: Updates for Hosting Open Dressage Classes in 2023**

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Please note that the below US Equestrian rule changes that involve hosting Open Dressage classes will go into effect for the 2023 competition year. These changes only affect dually USEF/USDF licensed dressage classes, not Western dressage classes. Only Regular and Local competitions will be impacted by these changes; Lite licensed competitions are not eligible to host Open Dressage classes.

The first notable change requires Regular and Local competitions that are hosting Open Dressage classes to run the classes first in the schedule. Secondly, horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other division or classes on the same day and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the day on which they compete in the Open Dressage class(es).

Lastly, at a breed or multi-breed competition, if Open Dressage classes are being hosted with no other classes running at the same time, then a dual carded Dressage Technical Delegate/C2 Steward may be hired, and their attention will be dedicated solely to the Open Dressage classes until those classes are complete. If the Open Dressage classes are occurring at the same time as other division classes, then a Dressage Technical Delegate must be hired for the Open Dressage classes and a separate C2 Steward for the other classes.

For more information, review the approved DR119 and Dressage Technical Delegate/C2 Steward rule changes referenced below. For any questions, please contact [dressage@usef.org](mailto:dressage@usef.org).

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2022	3/2/2022	Approved 6/20/2022

Rule Change Intent

There are a number of Breed Restricted Competitions which host Open Dressage classes and as per the current rules, a Dressage Technical Delegate must be hired to officiate for those classes. For many, this is a large financial burden on the show to have to hire an additional official for only a handful of classes. This proposal would permit a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate to officiate Open Dressage classes at a Breed Restricted Competition so long as all Open Dressage classes are completed before any other class can occur on a competition day. This restriction will ensure that the official's sole focus is on the Open Dressage classes and Dressage rules are being enforced.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Terri Dolan

Terri Dolan

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Linked Rules Comments

DR 119 (105-21)

Committee Actions  
Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/27/2022  
Draft 2: No Action 03/30/2022

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/07/2022  
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 04/06/2022

Competition Management

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/11/2022  
Draft 2: Committee stated that horse eligibility rules should not be under rules for competition management and licensing. Horses competing in Dressage classes must not be allowed to compete in any other discipline classes in the same day. This rule change specifically violates a current Dressage rule. Language in rule should reflect that no cross entries are allowed until the day after breed restricted dressage classes are completed.

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/25/2022  
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 03/29/2022

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/03/2022  
Draft 2: The Council agrees with comments from USDF and Dressage as it effects the level playing field. This rule change specifically violates a current Dressage rule. Horses should not compete in both Open Dressage and Breed Restricted Dressage classes on the same day.

Council - Member Services

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval  
Draft 2: The Council agrees with other committee comments that horse eligibility rules should not be included in rules specific to licensed officials or competition management. The Council would recommend approval of this proposal if all cross-entry and class scheduling language was removed from GR1041.6.b and GR1211.3.a.2.

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 04/25/2022

Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/14/2022  
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/05/2022  
Draft 1: The Committee agrees with USDF's comments that Horse Eligibility rules should not be under rules for competition management and licensing. Horses competing in Dressage classes must not be allowed to compete in any other discipline classes or competitions in the same day. This rule change specifically violates a current Dressage rule. Horses should not compete in both Open Dressage and Breed Restricted Dressage classes on the same day.  
Draft 2: The committee reiterates the objections noted on Draft 1. This proposal attempts to address multiple unrelated issues to GR1041. Current rule, DR119.2 limits the number of rides per day, prohibiting this proposal. Open Dressage classes are required to follow all DR rules, including a limitation to the maximum number of Dressage rides on the same day. Additionally, Dressage has a active Rule Change Proposal to DR119 to further clarify that this is not permitted.

### Friesian

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 02/02/2022

**Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/05/2022

**Draft 2:** The committee is not comfortable voting on a proposal which may be impacted, and therefore would need to be changed, depending on if Tracking 105-21 is approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors.

### Licensed Officials

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 10/26/2021

**Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 03/21/2022

**Draft 1:** The LOC approves of the updates restrictions for C2 Stewards and Dressage Technical Delegates, but is concerned that competitors will not be aware of the cross-entry restrictions if that language is located in Chapters 10 and 12 of the rulebook. Perhaps the following language should be placed where other cross entry restrictions are located within the Dressage and/or Breed Chapters that host dressage classes: "there may be no cross entering of horse or horse/rider combinations between Open Dressage classes and other classes until the Open Dressage classes are all complete."

### Morgan

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 01/27/2022

**Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 03/23/2022

### USDF

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 02/21/2022

**Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/07/2022

**Draft 1:** Horse eligibility rules should not be under rules for competition management and licensing. Horses competing in Dressage classes must not be allowed to compete in any other discipline classes in the same day. This rule change specifically violates a current Dressage rule.

**Draft 2:** Horse eligibility rules should not be under rules for competition management and licensing. Horses competing in Dressage classes must not be allowed to compete in any other discipline classes in the same day. this rule change specifically violates a current Dressage rule. Language in rule should reflect that no cross entries are allowed until the day after breed restricted dressage classes are completed.

## SUBCHAPTER 10-H REGULATIONS GOVERNING OFFICIALS

GR1041 Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions - Stewards and Technical Delegates (See also GR107 and GR1304)

6. Stewards and Technical Delegates are not to be used as Competition Staff, a Competition Official (Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Secretary, Judge, Veterinarian, and Course Designer), FEI Official, or in any other paid position not related to their proper duties at Licensed Competitions where they are officiating with the following exceptions:

b. C2 Stewards who are also licensed as Dressage Technical Delegates may serve in both roles at Licensed Breed **Restricted** Competitions offering 'breed-restricted' **Open** Dressage classes at Prix St. Georges or higher. **When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. If there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes.**

## SUBCHAPTER 12-C DUTIES OF COMPETITION MANAGEMENT IN GENERAL

GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees

### 3. Stewards/Technical Delegates

- a. Appoint and identify in the prize list and catalogue one or more licensed Federation Stewards licensed to officiate in the divisions and sections for which the competition is approved who shall be present at each session of the competition. A technical delegate must be appointed for Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions and Regular and Local Competitions offering "open" Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds) or classes above Third Level. **Exceptions:**
- 1. A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions.**
  - 2. C2 Stewards who are also licensed Dressage Technical Delegates may serve in both roles at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions offering Open Dressage classes. When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. If there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes.**

~~(Exception: A Category 2 or Combined Category steward may officiate through Fourth Level in the Andalusian, Arabian, Friesian, Morgan or other breed-restricted Divisions at regular or local competitions, only if classes are not part of an "open" Dressage Division.)~~

- b. If required to officiate, a Dressage Technical Delegate must be present and officiate for all Dressage classes held on the day(s) which he/she **they are** is in attendance. If no other classes except Dressage are held on a licensed day of a ~~B~~reed-~~R~~estricted regular or local ~~C~~ompetition, a steward does not need to be present in addition to the Dressage Technical Delegate.
- c. ~~b.~~ If a competition finds it necessary to substitute a steward or technical delegate for one who is officially designated in the prize list and/or catalogue and who is unable to serve due to circumstances beyond his control, the restrictions of GR1304.14 and/or GR1304.25 shall be non-effective.
- \*continue with updating the letters**

## SUBCHAPTER AL-41 DRESSAGE ANDALUSIAN/LUSITANO

AL232 General

1. Breed-restricted dressage classes held in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division to be conducted in accordance with USEF Dressage rules (Chapter DR), except as stated herein:
- a. When cross entry by rider or horse/rider combination is permitted between Dressage and other Andalusian/Lusitano classes at a competition, DR120 and DR121 apply only to the designated Dressage

warm-up and competition areas, or when exhibitor is actually warming-up for Dressage classes.

***1. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.***

## SUBCHAPTER AR-16 DRESSAGE SECTION

### AR172 Conduct

1. Dressage classes held in the Arabian Division to be conducted in accordance with Dressage Chapter DR, except as stated herein:

a. When cross entry by rider or horse/rider combination is permitted between Arabian Dressage and other Arabian and/or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes at a competition, DR120 and DR121 apply only to the designated Dressage warmup and competition areas, or when exhibitor is actually warming-up for Dressage class.

***1. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.***

## SUBCHAPTER CO-3 PERFORMANCE CLASSES

### CO112 Dressage Section

1. The rules of the Dressage Division shall apply to all Connemara and Halfbred Connemara Dressage classes.
2. Adults may show ponies in a Connemara class unless the class specifications state otherwise. (See also GR825.1)
3. Stallions may be shown in all performance classes. Stallions may be shown in Ladies and Children classes unless the prize list stipulates otherwise.
4. When the Dressage chapter is referenced herein, any rule or portion of a rule that is in direct reference to USEF/USDF or USEF National Championships shall be disregarded for the purpose of breed Dressage classes.
- 5. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.***

## SUBCHAPTER DR-1 DRESSAGE GOVERNING REGULATIONS

### DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions

2. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are prohibited from competing in any non-licensed competition(s) held on the same day(s) as they compete in a Licensed Dressage Competition. ***At breed restricted Local or Regular competitions, horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.*** Horses are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses competing at both Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges, or their equivalents, are limited to two Dressage rides per day. Horses competing in FEI Para Dressage tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including non-Para Dressage FEI, USEF, or USDF tests. FEI Para Dressage tests may be ridden at non-consecutive levels to USDF, USEF, and other FEI tests. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition (refer to the following chart). FEI Medium Tour Freestyles are permitted only for horses competing at Intermediate A, Intermediate B, or Intermediate II levels. Dressage Seat Equitation, Quadrille, Pas de Deux and Materiale 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.

### DR125 Competition Licensing and Officials

4. A Technical Delegate must be selected from the current Roster of Dressage Technical Delegates to officiate at all Dressage competitions and Regular and Local Competitions offering "open" Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds) or classes above Third Level. (Exception: ***A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions A Category 2 or Combined Category Steward may officiate through Fourth Level in the Andalusian, Arabian, Friesian and***

Morgan Divisions, only if classes are not part of an “open” Dressage Division and a **dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate for any level Dressage class, Open or breed restricted, at a Licensed Breed Restricted Competition. All Open Dressage classes must be completed prior to the start of any other classes. When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. If there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.** A Registered Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions. A Recorded Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate as the assistant to the Registered Technical Delegate(s) at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions, and may officiate alone at Levels 1-3 Dressage Competitions.

## SUBCHAPTER FR-7 DRESSAGE

### FR139 General

**3. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.**

## SUBCHAPTER MO-19 ADDITIONAL CLASSES

### MO209 Additional Class Specifications

#### 13. MORGAN DRESSAGE

a. Dressage classes held in the Morgan Division to be conducted in accordance with Dressage Chapter DR, except as stated herein:

4. When cross entry by rider or horse/rider combination is permitted between Dressage and other Morgan classes at a competition, DR120 and DR121 apply only to the designated Dressage warm-up and competition areas, or when exhibitor is actually warming-up for Dressage class.

**1. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of the competition day.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2022	2/23/2022	Approved 6/20/2022

Rule Change Intent

Open Dressage classes at Regular and Local Competitions have always been required to follow all rules in the DR Chapter, including those in DR119 and DR121. Some breed-restricted shows are proposing to allow breed-restricted dressage classes to be held after the open classes end and allow horses in the Open Dressage classes to compete in the breed-restricted dressage division, which would violate the rule prohibiting breed-restricted classes and limiting the number of rides per horse per day. The other alternative is to prohibit Open Dressage classes to be held at these competitions.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules      Comments

GR 1041 (039-21)

Committee Actions  
Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/30/2022

Draft 1: The committee disagrees with this proposal due to the financial and scheduling impact it will have on breed competitions. A breed competition would need to host Open Dressage and breed Dressage classes on separate days which would increase the cost for an exhibitor to compete multiple days as well as increase cost to a competition through needing a Dressage judge multiple days. The committee comments that horse welfare, with regards to number of rides for a horse in one day, is already addressed in the AL chapter, there is a rule limiting horses to 6 performance rides a day. The committee asks that if this proposal is approved, will the USEF Board consider exceptions within the breed chapter to be created? Lastly the committee comments that if this proposal is approved, competitions will need to decide if it will be cost effective to host Open Dressage classes at breed competitions or if the division will be removed from the breed competition world.

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/06/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels this is a step back for the Dressage discipline. The committee disagrees with the statement in the intent regarding that allowing horses to cross enter from Open Dressage classes into breed restricted Dressage classes once Open Dressage is done would be a violation, this has been occurring for years as per a Memo released by the Dressage discipline on how competitions could run both type classes and allow cross entering on the same day. The Arabian breed often runs multiple rings at their competitions, this proposal would be very disruptive to the schedule for both competition management as well as exhibitors.

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/29/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels this proposal if approved will cause unintended consequences. Prohibiting horses from cross entering into any other class type on the same day if they compete in Open Dressage classes will cause a hardship for competitions with regards to scheduling. This change would also financially hurt competitions due to the scheduling issues it would cause as well as needing to have certain staff/officials contracted for more days.

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/03/2022

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/25/2022

Draft 1: The Council disapproves of this proposal due to the financial strain this would put on smaller shows having to lengthen the competition to accommodate these horses showing in open dressage.

Dressage

Friesian

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/05/2022

**Draft 1:** The committee feels this proposal would be backtracking on the drive to expose more breeds to the Open Dressage world. If this proposal is approved, it would cause scheduling and financial hardships on both the competition management as well as exhibitors which may ultimately lead to less interest in hosting Open Dressage classes at breed competitions. The committee also noted that at the IFSHA World and Grand National Championship Horse Show, the rules already limit their horses to 5 performance classes per day in the interest of horse welfare.

Morgan

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 03/23/2022

**Draft 1:** The committee feels this rule if approved would be preventing breed competitions from supporting the Dressage discipline. Not only would this change be a disadvantage for scheduling purposes, it would also be adding extra costs to competitions and participants. One-day competitions would now need to add another day to their schedule to accommodate horses that exhibitors would like to show in both Open Dressage as well as other classes. Competitions would now need to hire a Dressage judge for more days than they currently do because the Breed Dressage classes will no longer be able to be hosted on the same day of Open Dressage. The committee asks if there was research done that presents cases where horses have been over-shown, causing this type of proposal to be submitted?

ParaEquestrian

**Draft 1:** No Action 03/23/2022

USDF

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 03/22/2022

**Draft 1:** No additional comment



**DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions - Change to read:**

1. Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any origin, except that ponies or mules may not be ridden in USEF High Performance **National** Championships and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Mules and/or ponies are also ineligible to compete in (1) any other classes designated as qualifying or selection classes for international or international high performance competition (except championships for FEI Pony Riders), and (2) championships where such participation is prohibited in the championship selection procedures. Dressage Competitions and classes may be limited to ponies of any breed or origin. However, Dressage Competitions and open dressage divisions of other Federation licensed competitions may not offer breed-restricted tests or classes.....

2. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are prohibited from competing in any non-licensed competition(s) held on the same day(s) as they compete in a Licensed Dressage Competition. ***Horses competing in Open dressage divisions or classes, which must be offered prior to any other classes, at a Regular or Local Competition are not permitted to participate or compete in other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival.*** Horses are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses...