



## Important Information for USEF Dressage

### "Opportunity" Classes

**1. What types of competitions may offer these classes?**

Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions which are licensed to include an Open Dressage Division (open to all breeds) may offer a limited number of dressage "opportunity" classes, as described in Rule GR821. (See #3 below for the list of classes and tests that may be offered.) Breed restricted Dressage classes can be offered as opportunity classes at Regular/Local breed restricted competitions.

**2. So may a breed-restricted competition offer these classes?**

Breed restricted Dressage classes can be offered as opportunity classes at Regular/Local breed restricted competitions.

**3. How do I know what type and how many dressage "opportunity" classes I can offer at my competition?**

The type and number of classes which may be offered is dependent upon the "level" of your competition. Only Level 1, 2, or 3 competitions may offer these classes (please refer to the published Dressage Levels chart on the USEF website and Chapter, 8, GR821). Dressage classes can be offered as Opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes as described below:

Classes are limited to the following competition levels and dressage tests:

- Level 1 competitions may offer two tests and only two classes per level per day at Introductory – Second Level one of which can be the Riders Test at Training - Second levels.
- Level 2 competitions may offer two tests and only two classes per level per day at Introductory - First Level one of which can be the Riders Test at Training and First levels.
- Level 3 competitions may offer two tests and only two classes per level per day at Introductory Training Level one of which can be the Training Level Riders Test.
- Level 4 and Level 5 competitions may not offer Opportunity classes.

**4. How do I list these classes in my prize list?**

Pursuant to Chapter 8, GR821.7, the list of "opportunity" classes offered must include "Opportunity" in the class name.

**5. Can I offer Eventing Dressage Tests or other types of tests as "opportunity" classes?**

No, as indicated above and in the Dressage Levels Chart (DR126), only specific USEF Second Level, First Level, Training Level, and Introductory Level Tests (including the respective Rider Tests) may be offered as "opportunity" classes.

**6. Can I offer Opportunity Test of Choice or Opportunity Freestyle classes?**

No. Pursuant to Chapter 8, GR821.2e(3), freestyles may not be offered as "opportunity" classes. *Effective 4/1/14, Opportunity classes cannot be offered as "Test of Choice" classes (GR821.2e(3)).*

**7. Can Opportunity classes in Dressage be restricted to amateurs?**

Yes. However, pursuant to Chapter 8, GR821.2e(4), *if opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or*

*Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have an amateur status with USEF (effective 4/1/14). The rider must also be aware of the amateur/professional rules found in Chapter 13, GR1306.*

**8. Who can judge these classes?**

USEF Rule, Chapter 8, GR821, states that any judge officiating at the competition may judge the "opportunity" classes. Since these classes may only be offered at Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with Open Dressage Divisions, the judges would be USEF-Licensed "r", "R", "s" or FEI Dressage Judges.

**9. What rules apply for these classes?**

Since these classes may only be offered at Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with Open Dressage Divisions, all USEF Dressage Division (DR) rules apply, including dress and saddlery requirements, in addition to all applicable General Rules, such as Drugs & Medications (see #14, below).

**10. What memberships are required for these classes?**

Pursuant to Chapter 8, GR821.2e(5) and GR821.5, horses, riders, owners, trainers, and coaches participating only in Opportunity classes are exempt from Federation and affiliate organization membership and Horse Identification (HID) requirements and non-member/Show Pass fees, but are required to list the Federation membership number if the participant is a member. *EC 11/18/13 Effective 12/1/13.*

**11. Can a horse and rider cross-enter into other dressage classes?**

Yes. Your prize list must state if "opportunity" riders/horses will be allowed to cross enter into other recognized classes at your show. Please note, however, if a horse or rider enters other non-opportunity classes at your competition in which membership by participants is required, all USEF and USDF membership requirements apply for horse, rider, owner, trainer, etc. (See Chapter 9, GR901.9 for more information.)

**12. What about the USEF Drugs & Medications fee?**

Pursuant to Chapter 4, GR407.1 and Chapter 8, GR821.3 & GR821.4, horses entered only in "opportunity" classes are exempt from the Federation fee, including the Drugs & Medications fee. However, horses entered in these classes are still subject to and must comply with all D&M rules and are subject to testing at your competition.

**13. Do I submit results for these classes to USEF?**

Pursuant to Chapter 8, GR821.1, competitions must submit full results of all "opportunity" classes as required in Rule Chapter 12, GR1214:

- "Opportunity" must be listed in the class name in the results.
- Full results are required -names of horses, riders, owners, and trainers are to be listed including addresses, placings and scores, eliminations, etc.
- If they have them, horses and members with USEF numbers should be listed in the results. If membership or HID information is missing, please leave the USEF number field blank.
- Section codes for submission of e-Results are as follows: Open Opportunity 5702; Amateur Opportunity -5703.

**14. What about the USEF Post-Competition Report?**

Since "opportunity" classes are exempt from membership, Show Pass fee, Drugs & Med Fee and the Federation Fee, these classes are not reported on the Post Competition Report.

**15. Can "opportunity" class results count towards USEF or USDF awards?**

No. Scores earned in dressage "opportunity" classes may not be used towards USEF or USDF awards or programs.

**Additional Information:** Questions should be addressed to the USEF Dressage Department at [Dressage@usef.org](mailto:Dressage@usef.org). Please reference Chapter 8 of the Dressage Rules [HERE](#).