



## **FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP™ RULES** **SEASON 2021/2022 ~~2020-2021~~**

### **PREAMBLE**

These rules set forth the detailed rules of the FEI Dressage World Cup™, which are to read in conjunction with the pertinent Statutes, General Regulations, Rules for Dressage Events and Veterinary Regulations. It is acknowledged that every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules and in any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances it is the duty of those responsible to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations. The FEI may therefore make exceptions to the rules, taking fairness and development of the sport into account.

### **Art. 1 - PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL**

1. The FEI Dressage World Cup™ is a series of competitions at Grand Prix level, comprising a number of qualifying events and a Final. The FEI Dressage Rules apply, except where stated differently in these rules. Moreover these rules must be read in conjunction with the FEI valid Statutes, General Regulations and Veterinary Regulations.
2. The FEI has established four Leagues, i.e. the Western European League, the Central European League, the North American League, and the Pacific League (Australia and New Zealand). Further Leagues may be established.
3. Specific Qualification Procedures and Guidelines for the North American League and the Pacific League must be approved separately by the FEI Dressage Committee. Any changes regarding League Qualification Procedure and guidelines have to be approved by FEI HQ the year before they are to become effective (deadline for submission to the FEI: end March).

4. Although Central Europe, North America, Australia/New Zealand have their own independent Leagues, athletes from these Leagues and from countries not belonging to any League may also qualify in the Western European League. The NF concerned will have to inform the FEI HQ, in writing before the start of the season, which athletes wish to qualify in Western Europe. In that case they will be treated like the Western European competitors. However, athletes from non-Western European Leagues qualifying in Western Europe cannot take away places in the Final from Western European athletes, and will compete in the Final as additional athletes.

It will be the responsibility of the relevant NF to determine which three athletes to send to the Final in the event of more than three athletes qualifying from any one NF as a result of participation in other Leagues.

5. If an athlete changes nationality during a FEI Dressage World Cup™ season, he/she must continue to qualify under the system in which he/she has started the season subject to Article 1.4 above. The FEI reserves the right to judge each case individually.

6. Athletes from non-Western European Leagues may also earn points by participating in Western European FEI Dressage World Cup™ events as extra invited athletes but cannot take starting places from WEL athletes and transferring them to their own League. These points from a maximum of 3 Western European events may count in their own League.

6.1. Athletes from the Western European League taking part in CDI-Ws in any other League as extra athletes, may also obtain points for their own League. However, except at one event where they may gain 100% of the points, Western European athletes will receive 50% of the points as mentioned under Art. 3.1 from a second CDI-W (maximum of two events) (in case of participation at several events, the event where the best result was achieved will count 100%). Fractions of 0.5 or more are rounded up.

Athletes from the Central European, North American or Pacific Leagues taking part in CDI-Ws in the Western European League as extra athletes may earn full points for their own League a maximum of two (2) times. Taking part in any other League as extra athletes, they may earn full points once, and 50% of the points from a second CDI-W (maximum of two events in total).

6.2. An athlete can no longer earn points in another league, after the date of the last scheduled competition of his own leagues approved in the FEI Calendar by the statutory deadline.

7. The number of FEI Dressage World Cup™ qualifying events in Western Europe and Central Europe will be annually decided by the FEI, The number of FEI Dressage World Cup™ events in the North American League is ten (see NAL Rules) and in the PAL League, the number of FEI Dressage World Cup™ events will be proposed yearly by the respective NFs for approval by FEI HQ.

8. Organising Committees must apply for a CDI-W through their respective National Federation to the FEI according to the established application procedures.

9. In any League, an athlete/horse combination may only start in six qualifying events. The four best results obtained in the qualifying events will count in the WEL, CEL and PAL, while the three best results will count in NAL. In order to qualify for the Final or a League Final an athlete horse/combination must have started and completed at least two times in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music at a CDI-W. (CDI3\*/CDI4\*/CDI5\*/CDIOs for athletes belonging to a NF outside established Leagues.)

10. At any event, the Short Grand Prix Test serves as the qualifying test to the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music, which is the competition in which FEI Dressage World Cup™ points can be earned.

11. For the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music test, article 430 of the Dressage Rules applies.

12. In case of date clashes, CDI-W qualifiers will prevail over CDI4\*s and above in the same league. No CDI5\* or above is allowed on the same dates as the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final.

## **Art. 2 - THE FEI WORLD CUP™ COMMITTEE DRESSAGE**

1. FEI Dressage World Cup™ matters are decided by the FEI HQ upon recommendation of the FEI Dressage Committee.

## **Art. 3 - PARTICIPATION**

1. In Western Europe the number of athletes/horses to take part in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music is limited to and compulsory for the 15 best combinations in the qualifying Short Grand Prix at the event, plus those who tie for the 15th place. Outside Western Europe this number may be less than 15.

2. Failure to start in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music for reasons other than illness of athlete or horse (in which case the move-up system applies) would mean that the athlete loses his/her Short Grand Prix classification and FEI Dressage World Ranking List points for the Short Grand Prix.

3. Reference is made to GR Art. 116.2.2.3 (ii) "Definite Entries", whereby any NF or athlete, after accepting an invitation in writing and failing to compete without good reason, must be reported by the OC and the Foreign Judge to the Secretary General of the FEI for the attention of the FEI Legal Department/FEI Tribunal.

4. A Western European athlete is allowed to participate with more than one horse in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ events of the season, but only with one horse in each event.

Outside Western Europe an athlete, including athletes from Western Europe, may start with a maximum of two horses in the qualifying Short Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle to Music of an event. The best result of the two horses will be counted in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Standing. In a League Final, an athlete may start with a maximum of two horses in the qualifying Short Grand Prix. He/she may, however, only opt to qualify with one horse for the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music. A declaration as to the choice of his horse must be made prior to entering the Short Grand Prix.

One rest day between the Short Grand Prix Competition and the Grand Prix Freestyle Competition is permitted.

An athlete may only participate with one horse in the Final. He/she may select the horse of his/her choice, with the restriction that the horse must have started and qualified for at least two Grand Prix Freestyle to Music competitions in the current season and have obtained the minimum qualification criteria of 68% in the two Grand Prix Freestyles.

5. A draw for the order of starting is compulsory for all Competitions.

5.1 Draw for qualifiers:

- For the Short Grand Prix, the draw (in groups of 5) shall be in the reverse order of the FEI Dressage World Ranking List (DWRL). Athletes who are not listed on the DWRL shall be drawn first.
- For the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music the draw shall be in reverse order of the placing of the Grand Prix Competition (in groups of 5). The starting order applied for a particular event must be stated in the schedule.

## 5.2. Draw for Final:

- For the Short Grand Prix, the draw will be done in two groups according to the table below, with the Athletes of group 1 being drawn for the first starting places.

	<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
WEL (9)	5	4 (the highest on the DWCS in group 2)
CEL (2)	1	1 (the highest on the DWCS in group 2)
PAL (1)		1
NAL (2)	1	1 (the highest on the DWCS in group 2)
Non.League. (1)	1	
Title def. (1)		1
Extra starting places (1)	1	(based on the WDRL)
Home athlete (1)		1
Total	9	9

(DWCS = FEI Dressage World Cup Standing)  
(WDRL = FEI Dressage World Ranking List)

If more than one place is allocated to "extra starting places", these will be distributed evenly in Group 1 and 2 for the draw.

For the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music, the draw shall be in reverse order of the placing of the Short Grand Prix Competition, with 3 in the first group (the lowest placed in the Short Grand Prix Competition) and 5 for the remaining groups.

6. The Grand Prix Freestyle to Music Competition must always be the highlight of an event, also as far as prize-money and prizes in kind are concerned, and must always be held on a main day at mid-day or in the afternoon or evening (Saturday). Exceptions to the rules must be approved by the FEI HQ.

7. The Grand Prix Freestyle to Music may be interrupted by a short break or a small display, but never by another competition. All breaks longer than 30 minutes have to be approved by the FEI HQ.

#### **Art. 4 – QUALIFICATION WESTERN EUROPEAN and CENTRAL EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In the qualifying events, the points to the athletes who have competed in the Grand prix Freestyle to Music will be awarded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	20 pts	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17 pts	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15 pts	
4 <sup>th</sup>	13 pts	
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 pts	
6 <sup>th</sup>	11 pts	
7 <sup>th</sup>	10 pts	
8 <sup>th</sup>	9 pts	
9 <sup>th</sup>	8 pts	
10 <sup>th</sup>	7 pts	
11 <sup>th</sup>	6 pts	
12 <sup>th</sup>	5 pts	
13 <sup>th</sup>	4 pts	
14 <sup>th</sup>	3 pts	
15 <sup>th</sup>	2 pts	(in case of a tie for 15 <sup>th</sup> place, 2 pts for each)

1.1 Ties: in case of a tie for 15<sup>th</sup> place, 2 pts are allocated to each athlete

1.2 Ties: in case of ties within the 15 places, the points for the tied place are added to those of the next place and divided by two. Each tied athlete is awarded the number of points resulting from this division.

2. There must be five Judges for each qualifying event and seven Judges for the Final.

3. Three out of the five Judges for the qualifying competitions (both **Short** Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle to Music) must be of a nationality other than the host country and must be selected from the FEI list of 5\* and 4\* Judges. 3\* may only be exceptionally selected with previous approval of the FEI.

There must not be more than two Judges of the same nationality in the Ground Jury. Exceptions for CDI-Ws outside Europe must be approved by the FEI Dressage Director.

4. The FEI HQ will appoint the Foreign Judge of the Ground Jury for each qualifying event in the Western European League.

For League Finals a full Ground Jury consisting of five Judges (with a minimum of three foreign judges of different nationalities) must be appointed. The Foreign Judge must be appointed by FEI HQ.

## **Art. 5 - WESTERN EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In Western Europe events may be organised at a limited number of two (2) CDI-Ws per NF. The FEI Dressage World Cup™ qualifying events must be exclusively indoor events.

### 2. Invitations

- The title defender has the automatic right to compete in every qualifier.
- The Top 10 Western European League athletes of the FEI World Ranking List (the "WR list"). If one of the athletes decides not to compete at an event, that athlete will be replaced by the next placed on the WR list, provided the replacement athlete is ranked within the top 30 of the WR list.
- For the events organized in the first half of the season (e.g. events starting before 31 December) the WR list from September will be used and for the second half of the season (e.g. events starting since 1<sup>st</sup> January) the WR list from December will be used. (max 1 horse per athlete).
- The OC has the right to limit the number of starters per foreign NF to three (3) or four (4) per NF. This must be mentioned in the approved schedule.
- The home NF has the right to nominate up to five (5) athletes unless this quota has been filled as per above.
- One FEI wildcard for an athlete of a NF not already entered.
- The OC has the right to invite other athletes until the maximum number of athletes invited in the schedule has been filled.

~~The invited nations must be approved by the FEI and the schedule must state which NF and how many athletes are invited. The invited NF is to make the selection of athletes to be entered.~~

3. The FEI Dressage Director may request the Organising Committees of qualifying events to accept two additional wild cards for overseas athletes and Central European athletes. This must be done if possible, before, or shortly after, the definite entries date of the CDI-W in question.

4. An athlete placed in the top ten on the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Standing list and not having completed the allowed number of Western

European qualifying events and wishing to compete at any of the last qualifying events between January 1st and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, cannot be refused by an Organising Committee up to until 23 days before the start of the Event.

5. Athletes qualifying through the Western European League who still have a reasonable chance to qualify for the Final, have priority to compete in the last qualifying events.

6. The OC of the last qualifying event in the Western European League must offer starting places to athletes from other Leagues who are already qualified for the Final and who request a starting place as a warm-up for the Final.

6.1. Athletes from non-Western European Leagues, already qualified for the Final through their own League, who are participating in a Western European qualifier, will not receive any points and their points would be attributed to the next placed athlete. They are, however, eligible for the prizes according to their placings.

#### **Art. 6 - CENTRAL EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In the Central European League, each NF may organise a maximum of three (3) qualifying events. Athletes may earn points in maximum two (2) events in one same Country. The two best results count toward the CEL Standings.

2. In the Central European League (CEL) the qualifying events may be either outdoors or indoors. They must be CDI-Ws.

3. For the Central European League the same point system as the Western European League (refer to article 4.1) is valid.

4. Athletes from Central European countries may earn full points for their own League by participating in a maximum of two Western European FEI Dressage World Cup™ events (refer to Article 1.6.1.).

5. The CEL points Standings list will count as the end result following the final qualifier. Maximum one (1) Athlete/Horse combination per NF can qualify for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final from the CEL.

#### **Art. 7 - NON EUROPEAN LEAGUES**

1. Outside the Western European League, the qualifying events may be both indoors or outdoors. They must be CDI-Ws.

2. Those Leagues may establish their own qualification procedure and guidelines (NAL and PAL rules), however, these must not conflict with the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Rules, and must be approved by the FEI HQ.



3. For all qualifying events (including Western and Central European League) and the League Finals, the final classification will be determined by the placings in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music. All athletes will be required to start in the [Short](#) Grand Prix competition, which will determine the starting order in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music.

4. One of the Judges required for the League Final is appointed by the FEI.

### **Art. 8 - FEI EXTRA STARTING PLACES - PERMANENTLY DOMICILED ATHLETES**

Athletes permanently domiciled in a country (FEI G.R. 123) of another League must be allowed to qualify in that respective League. If qualified for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final they would compete as additional Athletes. However, there is only one (1) extra starting place for all Leagues combined for this. If more than one (1) athletes qualify according to this article, the athlete with the highest ranking on the FEI World Dressage Ranking List of February of the current season will receive the extra starting place.

However, according to Article 9, a maximum of three (3) athlete/horse combinations per NF (including the titleholder) will be allowed to participate in the Final.

### **Art. 9 - FINAL**

1. The Final is an indoor event that must take place at the end of the FEI Dressage World Cup™ season in March or April.

2. The Final consists of the compulsory [Short](#) Grand Prix test and the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music test. All participants who finish the [Short](#) Grand Prix with at least 60 percent (FEI Dressage Rules article 422.3.1) will continue to the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music.

3. The Final classification will be determined by the placings in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music.

4. An athlete may start in the Final with one horse only.

Minimum qualification criteria for all Finalist combinations including extra starting places:

4.1 Having scored at least 68% in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music in a FEI Dressage World Cup™ Qualifying event (CDI-W) on two different occasions

4.1.1 For athletes not belonging to one of the recognised Leagues, one of the above results may be obtained at a CDI3\*/CDI4/CDI5\*/CDIO.

4.2 All qualification scores must be obtained in the 12 months prior to the date of definite entries of the Final.

5. In the Final, a maximum of 18 athletes/horses may participate:

Western European League	9
Central European League	2
Pacific League	1
North America	2
Non-League NFs	1
Title-Defender	1
<u>FEI extra starting places</u>	<u>2</u>

**Total: 18**

5.1 Non-League NFs:

The starting place for non-league NFs will be allocated to the athlete with the highest ranking on the FEI Dressage World Ranking List for February of the current year and who comply with art. 9.4 based on application from the respective NF. The application must reach the FEI not later than two weeks following the publication of this FEI Dressage World Ranking List.

5.2 FEI extra starting places:

The allocation of extra starting places will be decided as follows:

5.2.1 Permanently domiciled athletes who qualify in the League where they are domiciled (Art. 8, max one extra starting place)

5.2.2. One athlete from the host NF, if no host NF athlete is already qualified

5.2.3 If more starting places are available, these will be allocated to the athlete/horse combination(s) with the highest ranking (as a combination) on the February of the current year FEI Dressage World Ranking List, and who have participated in at least two (2) CDI-W.

6. A maximum of three athlete/horse combinations per NF (including the Title-Defender) will be allowed to participate in the Final. It will be the responsibility of the relevant NF to determine which three athletes to send to the Final in the event of more than three athletes qualifying from any one NF as a result of participation in their own or another League or other use of extra starting places.

Athletes qualifying through a Points-standings-list and where there are ties for the last qualifying place, ties will be broken by the total average of percentage given for the athletes at the qualifying events. i.e. The athlete with the highest percentage average will qualify.

7. In case not all qualified athletes can participate in the Final the following system applies:

7.1. in Leagues with 1 qualified athlete: substitution to 2nd place

7.2 in Leagues with 2 qualified athletes: substitution to 4th place

7.3 in Leagues with  
3 or more qualified athletes: substitution to the place which is 50 %  
more than the number qualified, i.e. for  
8 qualified athletes substitution to 12th  
place.

Any unused starting place will be used as an FEI extra starting place.

8 The title defender is automatically qualified with a horse of his/her choice, however, this Athlete/Horse combination must comply with Article 9.4.1 above. In the two FEI Dressage World Cup™ Qualifiers, the title defender will however not earn Dressage World Cup standings points and these points will be re- distributed to the next ranked Athletes as per Article 4.1 above.

9 The seven Judges (minimum six 5\* Judges, one 4\* Judge is permitted) required for the Final are appointed by the FEI and must be of seven different nationalities. The Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) is also appointed by the FEI.

#### **Art. 10 – TRANSPORT, STABLING AND ACCOMODATION**

1. For the qualifying events, the Organising Committees are required to meet the conditions laid down in the Dressage Rules and General Regulations of the FEI as well as per separate Agreement with the FEI (WEL events).

2. For the Final, the travel, accommodation and meal expenses of athletes, grooms and horses are regulated according to a separate Agreement with the FEI.