

Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Dressage Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic (Updated 7 December 2021)

Note: for ease of reading, all updates made since the last version of this document appear in mark-up. Previous updates are shown in red. The links are updated from time to time without this being shown as a change to the document.

Purpose

This document provides OCs with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Dressage Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all aspects of the Event the hygiene and social distancing principles necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- The [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers”, which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- The [Veterinary-specific guidelines for FEI Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) which outlines the veterinary processes applicable in each FEI discipline.

These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to Dressage.

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I. General

Please refer to the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

II. Show office & administration

Taking into account the Recommended Best Practices for FEI Event Organisers in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), a plan must be devised and implemented to ensure social distancing and adequate hygiene:

- At the various steps of the event administration (such as invoicing, orders etc.)
- In the show office
- During staff, volunteers and Officials briefings
- For shuttles and all venue vehicles

Regular cleaning and disinfection schedules must be established for all areas and equipment in the venue, including Judges box(es), score box(es), press & commentator box(es), volunteers material.

Pre-packaged individual food and bottled drink should be made available to personnel, Officials and volunteers if necessary.

III. Social distancing for Athletes and their support personnel

1. Rules of engagement

Every person involved in Dressage Events has the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus. Hand and respiratory hygiene, self-isolation when showing symptoms, social distancing, mask use and limiting group numbers are the most effective means of prevention of the spread. Outlined below are measures to be observed consistently during the Covid-19 pandemic:

2. General principles

These rules should be enforced in daily life by all members of the team and not only in training or at Events:

- Frequent hand washing, regular disinfection of shared surface.
- The use of face masks is strongly recommended except, for Athletes. While training and competing.

- When entering FEI Dressage Events, all team members by default should commit to respecting the above measures in their daily life and continue to enforce them during the Event.
- Coaches should be encouraged to interact with their Athletes through electronic devices (smartphone etc).

All Athletes, support personnel and entourage have the responsibility to bring enough face masks and sanitary hand and surface cleaning products (to be used for teams' own devices shared between the team).

The OC should have enough face masks to be delivered to the team members/Athletes in case of need. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at market price.

IV. Consequences of the removal of a team member due to Covid-19

If a team member has to leave the event due to SARS-CoV-2 contamination or suspected contamination (positive test, Covid-19 diagnosis, notification of close contact with an infected person by the relevant health authorities), the removal from the team will be considered as due to medical reasons and the consequences for the team will be determined as prescribed in article 424 of the Dressage Rules.

V. Equipment

In principle, sharing equipment should be avoided.

Where sharing is necessary, the equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Hands should be sanitised before and after touching any shared item.

VI. Competition areas

1. Warm-up arena

Social distancing:

- All accredited persons should wear a face mask and wash their hands with soap and water or with hydro alcoholic gel before entering the warm-up zone.
- Social distancing rules as well as the use of face masks is mandatory in the warm-up zone.
- Only Athletes can temporarily remove their masks when exercising and warming up.

Hygiene:

- A hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving Arenas. Each individual should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit (this does not apply to Athletes entering for their test).
- Personal equipment should not be shared with others, e.g. bottles of water, tack pieces, etc...
- To facilitate these processes the OC should set-up the warm-up area so that the crowd is evenly distributed over the entire surface area of the warm-up zone.

- Having two warm-up areas is a possible option; the above measures are still to be maintained.

Entry and exit:

- In addition to the above, when leaving the warm-up area Athletes should directly enter the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- When leaving the field of play, Athletes should directly exit the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.

2. Competition arena

- Spectators should wear face masks.
- All seats, and all other materials which have been in contact with people should be cleaned with a sanitary solution at the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC.

3. Ground Jury tables

Face masks and hand sanitiser should be provided to each judge and scribe.

Social distancing:

- The OC may consider installing a Plexiglas or heavy plastic divider and providing headsets for the judges to communicate with the scribes (the secretary and/or the E scribe).
- Judges and scribes are strongly advised to wear face masks.
- The use of headsets is highly recommended to facilitate the communication between the judges and their scribes.

Hygiene:

- A hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving arenas.
- Each accredited person should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Judges and their scribes should bring their own pens, notebooks etc. Sharing of equipment should not be permitted.
- At each rotation of the Judges/scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with a sanitising solution.

4. Score sheets

- Where possible, paperless judging should be favoured.
- Volunteers in charge of collecting scoresheets after each test should wear a face mask when collecting these scoresheets and sanitise their hands before and after handling them.
- If used, scoresheets should be put in a folder that should be cleaned after changing hands and placed outside the competition or scoring office. Hands should be sanitised before and after touching any shared item.
- No paper scoresheets should be given out at the competition. Scoresheets may be requested following the competition and sent via email.

- During and after the competitions scores shouldn't be shown on small screens around the arena to discourage any physical gathering, but scores can be shown on a big score board above the arena, posted online and circulated through email. Scores should be posted online and circulated through email.

5. FEI Officials

FEI Officials must wear a face mask during their duty, sanitise their hands frequently and maintain adequate distance¹ whenever possible.

For the equipment check, in addition to wearing masks, Stewards must wear single use gloves and change them after each check (as required by the Steward Manual).

VII. Falls & injured Athletes

- Medical service providers must always wear a face mask and gloves when tending to injure Athletes.
- Anyone else providing help must wear a face mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.
- The Athlete must be given a face mask (unless in medical distress).
- The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the local health authorities.

VIII. Prize giving, awards and end of competition

As of 1 September 2020, the Covid-19 guidelines for prize giving protocols and media activities at FEI Events apply to all FEI Events. ~~Under these guidelines, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for everyone involved in prize givings, including Athletes unless they are mounted on a horse or driving a carriage. There is also a specific protocol for podium presentations.~~

¹ "Social distancing" means deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. It typically involves avoiding gathering together in large groups and keeping a certain distance from others. The distance specified in relation to Covid-19 may differ from country to country. The FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic recommends a distance of two metres whenever possible.