

2015 FEI WORLD DRESSAGE CHALLENGE

The Competition is held from **January to December** in accordance with the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, 25th edition, effective 1st January 2014, (please consult www.fei.org > Rules > Dressage) and FEI General Regulations, Pony Regulations and Veterinary Regulations currently in force.

ARTICLE 1 - PRINCIPLES

1.1 The event is open to a maximum of **40** starters in total and a minimum number of **10** athletes. Should the number of athletes not meet the minimum quota, the organising NF will be given a 1st warning. In case this happens two years in a row, the NF may not be allowed to participate the following year.

1.2 The FEI World Dressage Challenge consists of:

- The Prix St-Georges Class
- The Advanced Class
- The Medium Class
- The Elementary Class
- The Preliminary Class

1.3 FORMULA

Day 1: Judges' arrival

Day 2: Judges' free day (free day may also be scheduled after the clinic)
Horse Inspection (evening prior to the competition day **or** on the morning of the competition)

Day 3: Challenge Competition Classes

FEI Prix St-Georges	- edition 2009
FEI Challenge Advanced Test	- edition 2011
FEI Challenge Medium Test	- edition 2011
FEI Challenge Elementary Test	- edition 2011
FEI Challenge Preliminary Test	- edition 2011

Video Session **OR** General Discussion

Day 4: Clinic (see Guidelines)

Day 5: Judges' departure

Note: The order in which the classes are scheduled is not imposed. However, we suggest that the Preliminary Test be scheduled first so the younger athletes can watch the senior athletes perform which would be beneficial for them. In any case, a progression through the levels is preferable.

ARTICLE 2 - PARTICIPATION

- 2.1 The FEI World Dressage Challenge Competition is open to National Federations, which in the opinion of the FEI, are still in the ongoing progression of Dressage Development.
- 2.2 The Participation Form must be submitted to the FEI before the 1st October 2014 (Group 3 and Group 10) and the 1st December 2014 (other Groups) of the year previous to that in which the Challenge will take place (all forms should be submitted to andreina.wipraechtiger@fei.org and can be downloaded from the website <http://www.fei.org/fei/events/fei-world-challenge/dressage/downloads>)
- 2.3 The Competition is open to the following age groups from the 1st January of the year in which they reach their 16th or 12th birthday:

FEI Prix St-Georges	-	16 yrs of age and above
FEI Challenge Advanced Test	-	16 yrs of age and above
FEI Challenge Medium Test	-	16 yrs of age and above
FEI Challenge Elementary Test	-	12 yrs of age and above
FEI Challenge Preliminary Test	-	12 yrs of age and above

For the Elementary and Preliminary Tests, two rankings will be produced; one for adults (16 years of age and above – athletes born in 1999 or before) and one for children (12 to 15 years – athletes born from 2000 to 2003)

- 2.4 Whilst FEI Registration for 2015 is not mandatory, it is highly recommended for both horses and athletes. Registration for athletes under 18 is free of charge.
- 2.5 **As an exception to the FEI General Regulations**, in the World Dressage Challenge "Athletes Living outside their country of nationality" (as defined in the FEI General Regulations) may compete for their country of residence. **They may also be members of their host country's team.**
- 2.6 Foreign Athletes from another Challenge NF or from a 'non-Challenge' NF may compete in the World Dressage Challenge under the conditions of Art. 101.2, FEI General Regulations. However, permission to take part will only be granted if the quota of 40 places is not reached. **Foreign Athletes may only compete for their country of sport nationality, and cannot be a member of the host country's team.**
- 2.7 The Challenge Competition is open to all horses and ponies of any origin provided they have successfully passed the Veterinary Inspection. From this point forth, both horses and ponies will be referred to as 'horses' and therefore can be ridden in all categories by Seniors or Juniors.

Horses may compete if they are a minimum of:

- 5 years of age for "Adults" Preliminary and Elementary
- 6 years of age for "Children" Preliminary and Elementary
- 6 years of age for Medium and Advanced.
- 7 years of age for PSG.

The age is counted from 1st January of the year of birth in the Northern hemisphere and 1st August for Southern Hemisphere.

- 2.8 The FEI World Dressage Challenge competition **must take precedence over any other competition organised in its framework** and, if applicable, horses entered should not take part in another national competition organised in the framework of the Challenge.
- 2.9 Any **Athlete/Horse combination** that has competed at any FEI Events (**CDIs, Regional Games and/or Senior Regional Championships**) in tests higher than Prix St-Georges is not permitted to participate in any of the Challenge classes. This only applies to

Athlete/Horse **combinations**, therefore an athlete can compete using another horse and a horse can be ridden by another athlete (refer to 2.12).

Other restrictions may apply based on National Federation's participation criteria. Athletes must consult the National regulations for such restrictions.

- 2.10 Any **athlete or horse** that has participated in an Olympic Games, an FEI World Equestrian Games and/or Senior European Championships is no longer eligible to compete in the Challenge.
- 2.11 It is the responsibility of the National Federation to select the participants (horses/riders) for this Competition in strict accordance with the participation rules above and make sure that athletes and horses comply with these rules.
- 2.12 An athlete or horse is allowed to start maximum twice in the Challenge classes, as below:

Starting possibilities:

i. Athlete/horse combination:

An athlete/horse combination is allowed to start in two different classes but with no more than one level difference, i.e.: Preliminary-Elementary, Elementary-Medium, Medium-Advanced or Advanced-PSG.

ii. Athlete:

An athlete is allowed to start twice:

- in the same class but with two different horses
- in two different classes but with two different horses.

iii. Horse:

A horse is allowed to start twice, i.e.:

- Once in Medium, Advanced or PSG and once in the Preliminary or Elementary class.
- Twice in the Preliminary or the Elementary class.

A horse can only be ridden once in each of the following classes: Medium, Advanced or PSG.

- 2.13 NFs have the choice to either enter all athletes into one class or to divide them among all five levels (which is strongly recommended). NFs are completely free in their choice. However, the **minimum (10) and maximum number (40)** of athletes overall must be respected (refer to 1.1).

2.14 Clarification regarding Team Horse & Athlete's Participation:

If a horse and an athlete have been selected for the Team, the test in which they have been selected must be their first performance.

As a combination can now ride 2 tests, and a horse 2 tests, it must be made clear that it **is not allowed to use a round as a 'warm up'** before competing in the test for which they have been selected to represent the Team.

Eg. 1 A horse and athlete have been selected to represent the Team in the Medium Level. They are not allowed to ride the Elementary test prior to their Medium Test. As they have been selected at Medium Level, the Medium Test must be executed first

Eg. 2 A horse is being ridden by two athletes, one of which has been selected for the Team. The athlete that has been selected for the Team must ride before the athlete not in the Team.

ARTICLE 3 - CLINIC

- 3.1 The Ground Jury is not only responsible for judging but also for conducting a **Clinic** i.e. the **10 best-placed adults** (according to their results in percentages) **and the 4 best children** (according to their results in percentages) will receive a training session based on their performance in the competition. The time devoted to each athlete is 45 minutes (see Guidelines for the Clinic) or at the discretion of the Judge/Trainer.
- 3.2 An athlete or horse can only participate once. If there is no or less than 4 athletes in the 12-15 yrs old age group, the vacant places may be taken by seniors up to the number of **14**.

ARTICLE 4 - GROUND JURY

- 4.1 The Competition within the Zone is judged by the same Ground Jury, consisting of the same two FEI Dressage Judges appointed by the FEI, who travel from country to country until their tour is completed and all competitions and clinics have taken place.
- 4.2 As an exception to Art. 437.1, only two Judges will judge the Competition. The classes will be judged individually with the President placed along the short side of the arena at "C" (see Art. 429.5) and the Member at "E".
- 4.3 After each competition in the respective countries, the President of the Ground Jury is responsible for establishing a running record as to the results and placing of the individual athletes within the Zone. This running record must be sent to the FEI immediately following the last competition.
- 4.4 According to Art. 2 of Codex for FEI Dressage, a judge must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A judge must have a neutral, independent and fair position towards athletes, owners, trainers, organisers and other officials and integrate well into a team. Financial and/or personal interest must never influence or be perceived to influence his/her way of judging.

Activities which will lead to or may lead to a "conflict of interest" when officiating at an FEI WCHA-D event, include but are not limited to:

- Training a horse/athlete for more than **three** days in the **four** month period prior to an FEI WCHA-D event or any training of a horse/athlete during a period of **two** months before an FEI WCHA-D event.
- Acting as Team Chef of National teams at international level or being responsible/co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals or training athletes within the NF.
- To be owner/part-owner of horses taking part in the event.
- Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from owners, athletes, trainers, organisers or other related organisations.
- Having a close personal relationship with an athlete.
- Nationalistic judging.

A judge has the responsibility to notify the FEI of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or situations that may be perceived as such.

- 4.5 Marking (FEI Dressage Rules Art. 432)
All half marks from 0.5-9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the Judges.

ARTICLE 5 – HEADGEAR, DRESS, SADDLERY & ARENA

5.1 Protective Headgear and top hat/bowler: according to Art. 427.1 dressage rules Protective Headgear has to be worn by all Athletes (as well as any other person) at all times while mounted. Any athlete (as well as any other person) violating this provision must immediately be prohibited from further riding until the Protective Headgear is properly in place.

5.2 Dress: according to Art. 427.2 A black or dark blue tail coat, white or off white breeches, stock or tie, gloves, black riding boots and spurs must be worn. For classes below Prix St-Georges, a black or dark blue jacket is also permitted. However, in extreme heat, judges may give the option not to wear a jacket. A white shirt is however compulsory. The spurs being used must be in accordance with Art.427.4, FEI Dressage Rules.

Black Gaiters or half leather chaps will be allowed for both adults and children. Likewise, Hunting Caps or Jockey Skulls with a black silk cover will also be allowed for both adults and children.

**Top hat or bowler is only permitted for athletes that are not obliged to wear protective headgear as defined in Art. 427.1, dressage rules.

5.3 **Athletes in the 12-15 years old age group**: Dress according to FEI rules for Pony Athletes, Art. P-18: Dark riding jacket. White or fawn breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt with tie or hunting stock, hunting cap. Gloves must be worn. Riding boots. Neither top hat nor bowler is allowed. Protective Headgear as defined in Art. 427.1, dressage rules, must be worn at all times while mounted. No whip of any kind may be used whilst competing. However, one whip of maximum length 1.00 m is allowed in the warm-up. Spurs are optional but if used, only blunt metal spurs no longer than three and half centimeter (3.5cm) are allowed. Rowels on spurs are not allowed.

5.4 Saddlery must be as laid down in Art. 428 of the FEI Dressage Rules. For Prix St-Georges level, a double bridle is compulsory. For Advanced Level the double bridle is allowed. For Medium, Elementary and Preliminary levels, an ordinary snaffle **must** be used (see permitted snaffles and nose-bands in FEI Dressage Rules). This applies in the practice and competition arenas. For all levels, the whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena.

Whip: According to Art. 428.3, it is forbidden to carry a whip of any kind while competing in the arena. However, the use of one whip, with a total maximum length of 120 cm in the practice area is allowed. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the athlete will entail a penalty. See Art 430 of the FEI Dressage Rules.

5.5 Arena: The arena, flat and level, must be 60 meters long and 20 meters wide (Art. 429 FEI Dressage Rules and Annex 11).

ARTICLE 6 - HORSE INSPECTION

6.1 Any horse participating must have previously passed a horse inspection carried out by an FEI Veterinary Delegate to be appointed by the OC in accordance with Art. 1033, points 1 and 2, of the current FEI Veterinary Regulations. The Horse Inspection must be undertaken as much as possible in accordance with the FEI General Regulations and FEI Veterinary Rules.

6.2 Art. FEI GR 137.2

Horses taking part in the FEI World Dressage Challenge competitions in their own country are **not** required to have an official, valid FEI Passport, or a National Passport approved by the FEI accompanied by an FEI Recognition Card, as a mean of identification and to

establish ownership.

- 6.3 All such horses must be properly registered and identifiable by diagram. Unless there is no national requirement for equine influenza vaccination in the host country and in the country of origin, all horses must have a valid vaccination certificate. The Inspection must take place on a firm, level and clean but not slippery surface. The horse must be walked and trotted on a loose rein. A Re-inspection is allowed (Art. 1033, PARTS V and VI FEI Veterinary Regulations www.fei.org > veterinary > Veterinary Regulations and Education >Article 1033).
- 6.4 At least one Member of the Ground Jury must be present and the Vet. Inspection must take place in principle on the day preceding the Competition. Please refer to FEI Veterinary Regulations, Art. 1033. (See FEI website: www.fei.org > veterinary > Veterinary Regulations and Education).
- 6.5 It is up to the NF to award a Special prize to the best presented horse based on the Ground Jury & Veterinarian's decision.

ARTICLE 7- THE CLASSIFICATION

- 7.1 Seven separate ranking lists (one for each level in the 16 yrs and above age group and one for each level in the 12 to 15 yrs age group) will be established and will count towards the final classification.
- 7.2 **The Individual Classification** in each country of the Zone is decided as follows: the winner is the athlete having the highest total points converted into percentage, the second the one with the next highest total and so on. **In case of equality of points** for the first, second and/or third places **in a country**, the higher collective marks will be decisive for the placing. If a further tie exists, the higher collective marks for the athlete (No 4. Athlete's position and seat. See test sheet) will be decisive.

In case of equality of points for places other than the first three, the athletes concerned are given the same rank.

In case of equality of points for the first, second and/or third places **in a Zone**, the higher collective marks will decide for the placing. If a further tie exists, the higher collective marks for the athlete (No 4: Athlete's position and seat see test sheet) will be decisive.

- 7.3 The **Team Classification** in each country is calculated as follows:

Following the Veterinary Inspection/Trot-Up an NF designates a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 Team Athletes. It is of no importance whether all Team members participate in the same level or whether they compete in different levels. However, an athlete and a horse can only be nominated once for the Team Classification.

Once nominated, the names of the Team members cannot be changed.

The Team members (athletes and horses) must be declared to the President of the Ground Jury using the official 'Team Declaration' form, found within the 2015 Working Documents.

The Team members' ultimate results, expressed in percentages, will be added. The results achieved by the three best Team athletes will count for the Team Classification.

In case of equality of points for the first, second and/or third places **in a Zone**, the Team whose third placed athlete achieved the higher percentage will be placed first.

- 7.4 When equality of points for the first, second and/or third places (Individuals/Teams

country/group), FEI Judges are asked to give full details to the FEI.

ARTICLE 8 - THE PRIZES

- 8.1 The Organising Committee within each country is responsible for the distribution of prizes in the normal way (at least one prize for each four athletes).

ARTICLE 9 - THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 9.1 NFs/OCs are requested to e-mail to andreina.wipraechtiger@fei.org **full results excel sheet within 3 days** of the competition to all countries in their Zone and to the FEI. NFs/OCs are requested to use and return to the FEI the **Official Results Sheet** provided for this Competition on the FEI website: www.fei.org > Events > Series and Finals > FEI World Dressage Challenge > Downloads
- 9.2 The National Federations are responsible for the travelling expenses of the Judges within each respective country, as well as for the accommodation (board and lodging) during their sojourn. This accommodation must be provided in a standard hotel (preferably near the city center, 5 star hotels are not necessary) with modern communication means (internet), which will allow for a certain amount of privacy and comfort to recover from the strain imposed on the judges on this long trip. **Last-minute changes ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
- 9.3 While preparing publications for the competition (programs, flyers, etc.) the OC is requested to follow the FEI Brand Guidelines when using the FEI Logo, which you will find on the FEI website under: <http://www.fei.org/fei/about-fei/commercial/branding>.

ARTICLE 10 - MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1 Climate: In exceptional weather conditions and with the authority of the Ground Jury and/or the FEI, the Competition may be held indoors if the competition arena has the proper measurements. The decision to move indoor must be taken at least 24 hours before the beginning of the competition in order to give the OC enough time to set the arena properly.
- 10.2 Horses Schooling: On no account and under penalty of elimination, may any horse take part in the Competition which has been schooled by anyone other than the athlete, mounted in the saddle, in or outside the town where the Competition is held, from 18.00 hours on the day preceding the Competition until the Competition is finished.
- 10.3 Bell: A bell must be provided for the President of the Ground Jury.
- 10.4 Copy Rights: any athlete entered by his or her NF in the FEI World Dressage Challenge concedes the rights of any photographs of the athlete and/or horse and accepts their publication in the FEI website or relevant FEI publications.
- 10.5 The FEI World Dressage Challenge must be organised strictly according to FEI Rules.
- 10.6 The FEI is entitled to make reasonable amendments to the present rules.
- 10.7 All trot work is executed "sitting", unless otherwise indicated in the test (Art. 404.5)