

# Rules for participating in competitions

## ARTISTIC DRESSAGE



[http:// dressageartistique.com](http://dressageartistique.com)

2019

# ARTISTIC DRESSAGE

## THE ART OF DANCING ON HORSEBACK

Artistic Dressage is a discipline in which the horse/rider couple expresses themselves in a short but intense program which combines elements or figures from classic dressage or from other riding styles in order to be performed in synchronization with the music.

This discipline also requires riding techniques:

- An artistic sense
- A musical ear
- Creativity
- Emotion

In summary, it is about creating an original choreography to music and sublimating the technique through the transmission of artistic emotions.

## CATEGORIES

The discipline includes 2 categories: JUNIOR and ADULT

JUNIOR category: minors between 10 and 14 years old.

ADULT category: from 15 years old

## LEVELS

What defines the level is the degree of training of the horse and not the level of the rider.

### 1/ for the JUNIOR category: riders between 10 and 14 years old

The JUNIOR category includes only one level: "Amateur Horses"

- **Amateur Horse Level:** the horse is trained in low school.

It is a horse, which is capable of making lateral movements, of doing legs and the Spanish step, it is also capable of making isolated changes of feet. In the FFE category, he would be a maximum Amateur Elite category horse.

PLEASE NOTE: For the JUNIOR category, wearing a helmet is mandatory on the relaxation track. It is optional when presenting the program, Only with parental consent, no penalty.

### 2/ for the ADULT category: 15 years and beyond.

The ADULT category includes 4 progressive levels

1 "Amateur Horse"

2 "Pro Inter Horse"

3 "Pro Horse."

4 "Free Pro Horse"

**1 Amateur Horse Level:** the horse is trained in low school.

It is a horse, which is capable of making lateral movements, of doing legs and the Spanish step, it is also capable of making isolated changes of feet. In the FFE category, he would be a maximum Amateur Elite category horse.

**Wearing a stick and/or spurs is authorized, but improper use will be punished.**

**2 Pro INTER Level:** It is a horse, which is capable of performing high school figures such as piaffe, passage, close changes of feet, pirouettes.

In the FFE category, it would be a minimum Amateur Elite category horse with figures from other equestrians, for example spins from American equestrianism, jumping pirouettes, or pirouettes vaquera from Spanish equestrianism. The trainer's difficulty will be to combine all the aids so that the horse does not confuse the aids with each other and can perform them with all the transitions to perform a dance.

**Carrying of a stick and/or spurs is authorized but improper use will be punished.**

**3 Pro Horse Level:** This is a horse, which is capable of performing high school figures such as piaffe, passage, close changes of feet, pirouettes.

In the FFE category, it would be a minimum Amateur Elite category horse with figures from other equestrians, for example spins from American equestrianism, jumping pirouettes, or pirouettes vaquera from Spanish equestrianism. The trainer's difficulty will be to combine all the aids so that the horse does not confuse the aids with each other and can perform them with all the transitions to perform a dance.

**Stick FORBIDDEN, spurs Authorized but improper use will be punished.**

**4 Pro Free Horse Level:** The horse is trained high school and above. It is a horse, which is capable of doing high school figures with a series of important additional figures in order to master sophisticated choreographies. There is no equivalent in FFE.

This category allows great freedom in the choreography and the program to be performed. The rider can make arm movements or have the reins on the belt as we can see in some of Jenny's videos. Imagination combined with very high technique allows all the most daring choreographies. It is the highest level of Artistic Dressage and certainly the most beautiful thing that can be seen in dressage.

Stick FORBIDDEN, spurs authorized but improper use will be punished.

PLEASE NOTE: Any high school figure incorporated into the "Amateur Horses" level program is eliminatory.

Ex: a horse registered at Amateur level cannot perform a piaffe during its program

A horse that has already competed at the "PRO" or "PRO Inter" level cannot return to the "AMATEUR" level even with another rider.

## COMPETITORS

- Competitors must be FDA members for official competitions.
- Competitors must be insured for their equestrian activities in civil liability and individual accident. (check the contents of your insurance contract).
- Candidates must have a sufficient technical level to carry out a program likely to convey emotion.
- The same rider can present several programs with a different horse (maximum 2 horses authorized per Amateur and Pro level).

## HORSES/PONIES

Artistic Dressage is open to all breeds of purebred or ONC horses, sports horses or even leisure horses. There is no age limit.

Horses must be up to date with their vaccinations, respect health regulations and be insured for civil liability.

## AREA

The dimensions of the track where the program takes place may vary from one competition to another and are communicated before each competition.

The track can be round, square or rectangular.

In all cases, the size of the track cannot be less than 15 meters.

## PROGRAM

The competitor has complete freedom to select the dressage figures he wishes to perform (no figure is imposed).

The choice of different paces is free (there is no obligation to use all 3 paces).

The program must be deployed over the entire surface of the track and vary the layouts. The central space will be favored rather than the edges of the track.

**No obligation for symmetry of figures.**

The program must take place in symbiosis with the chosen music and the theme. The horse must work in sync with the music. He must dance. The rhythm of the music must be adapted to the rhythm of the horse's gaits. Musical phrases must be as readable as possible.

The entire program must be completed on horseback

The duration of the program should be between 3 and 5 minutes.

The salute or the campo (static figures) can be used only at the beginning or end of the program so as not to interrupt the dance.

Horseback dance movements (with arms or legs) can be used while walking or standing if the choreography allows.

**ATTENTION: It is forbidden to sit or lie down horses.**

## MUSIC

The music is either imposed or free depending on the categories and the choice of the competition organizer. It can be classic, modern or contemporary, with or without words. This is one or 3 songs to choose from.

When the music is free, the music must be transmitted, within the allotted time, to the organizers, before the competition, mainly on an MP3 format file. Any music transmitted under another type of file will risk being refused.

**PLEASE NOTE: assembling music, that is to say several types of music placed end to end to match the tunes, is prohibited.**

## RIDER'S ATTIRE

The choice of outfit is free. The Artistic Dressage outfit is an outfit which is, if possible, related to the music chosen for the choreography.

The outfit must be classy and highlight the couple.

### **What the judges like:**

Sober and elegant outfits that do not hide the horse (the movements must be highlighted, so do not hide the horse)

### **What the judges don't like:**

When the outfit is a disguise.

When the colors don't match.

Vulgar or indecent dress.

In fact, Artistic Dressage aims to be a discipline of good taste and to represent what France has at its most elegant.

**PLEASE NOTE: carnival-style disguises, accessories that are too imposing (wings, etc.) or outfits that are too extravagant, as well as masks on the face are prohibited.**

## HARNESS

The type of harness is free. The fact that the harness does not match the chosen theme is not penalizing.

Ex: With Spanish music and a Spanish-themed outfit you can ride in the saddle and on a classic bridle. Spanish harness is optional.

It is possible not to have harness. In this case, the competitor must execute his entire program without bridle from the start.

Reins are prohibited (martingale, German reins, fixed reins, etc.).

**PLEASE NOTE: any competitor who removes the harness during the program will be penalized.**

## ACCESSORIES

The stick is only authorized at the “Amateur” and “Pro Inter” level. It must only be used to give the horse momentum. Any other use or abusive use will be penalized. The same goes for the use of spurs.

Accessories that are too imposing (wings, etc.) or outfits that are too extravagant, as well as masks on the face, are prohibited.

**PLEASE NOTE: no utensil, object or accessory may be brought by a person outside the program during the program.**

## JURY

The jury is made up of at least one technical judge and an artistic judge approved by the FDA (artistic dressage federation) if there are other artistic judges (choreographer, dancer, etc.), these will be supervised by the approved judge FDA



## NOTATION

The evaluation of the presented program is made according to 3 criteria: Artistic Criteria, Technical Criteria, and Presentation Criteria...

### 1 / Technical criteria

The technical assessment represents 30% of the overall score

The following are taken into account in the technical rating:

- **Technical accuracy:** technical accuracy in the execution of program elements. Ease in transitions between tricks, as well as variations in speed or pace.
- **Balance, Rhythm, ease of the horse** in its movements, way of moving with ease and lightness, without jerks.
- Harmony of the **rider/horse pair** - **Harmony** of the aids: fluidity of the program lightness of the aids, giving an effect of ease.
- **Technical difficulty, risk-taking, and technical creativity:** the variety of elements as well as the level of technical difficulty, the contribution of new sequences, new tricks, new elements.

**IMPORTANT: what makes the score is not the quantity of figures performed, but the choreography as a whole and its accuracy with the music.**

**A horse/pony in a serious disorder (violent refusal, horse taking the hand) will be eliminated.**

### 2/ Artistic criteria

Artistic appreciation accounts for 60% of the final grade.

The following are taken into account in the artistic note:

- Interpretation of the music: General impression, overall note on the expression by the horse/rider couple, of the style, of the theme of the music throughout the program.
- Originality and innovation: translate into new movements, transitions, original sequences, a program idea (choice of theme and/or music), or choreography that demonstrates innovation.

- **Rhythm, Energy, Respect for the tempo of the music**

- **Choreography, Occupation of the track:** the program must be spread over the entire surface of the track and vary the tracks. The main elements must be carried out at various points on the runway. The use of the center of the runway is preferred. **The choreography performed by the horse and rider must be expressive and convey emotions.**

### 3/ Presentation criteria

The presentation rating represents: 10% of the final grade

The following are taken into account in the presentation note:

1/ **Condition of the horse, Grooming** of the horse: physical condition of the horse (appearance of the coat, cleanliness), health condition (general condition, e.g. not skinny horse), grooming, care of the horsehair. The elegance of the outfit, the distinction, the care given to the outfit, the harness: the care given to the outfit (e.g. finishes, elegance), and to the harness (cleanliness) in compliance with the rules.

2 / Video quality (for online contests only): Choice of frame, image and sound quality.

If you would like more information on these rules, please contact the Fédération de Dressage Artistique at the following address:

*[http:// dressageartistique.com](http://dressageartistique.com)*