



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF 2019 PAS DE DEUX RULES AND GUIDELINES

Effective 12/1/2018 -11/30/2022

Eligibility

- There are no qualifying requirements for a pas de deux.
- If the horses are not the same level, the lower level horse determines which level the team may enter as determined by USEF rules. The upper-level horse is exempt from the two consecutive level rules. For example, a Prix St. Georges horse and Third Level horse may enter pas de deux competition no lower than Second Level.

General

Dressage pas de deux is an artistic program created by two riders to present their horses to best advantage in an artistic, musical context.

- It is judged according to the "Technical Execution" (performance as a pair, required elements, impulsion and submission), and the "Artistic Impression" (Harmony, Choreography, Music and Interpretation).
- It is performed in a standard dressage arena (20x60 m) unless otherwise specified in the prize list.
- A copy of the program is not submitted in advance.
- Current USDF scoresheets must be used.
- Pas de deux may be offered at any level.

Time

- There is no minimum time requirement for any level. There is a maximum time limit of five minutes from Training through Intermediate, and a maximum of six minutes for the Grand Prix.
- Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One point will be deducted from the total points for "Artistic Impression" for exceeding the time limit.
- The first rider must enter the arena or signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell or the team will be eliminated.
- The first rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the start of the music or the team may be eliminated at the discretion of the Judge.
- Pairs are to salute the judge at C at the beginning and end of the test. The program is timed and judged from the move off the initial halt and salute. Timing and judging will cease at the final salute.

Music

- Music is mandatory.
- Exit music is not allowed.
- In case of rider's music failing **before or** during a test and in cases where there is no backup system, the riders can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena **or start at a later time**. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected riders should return to complete or restart his/ her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The riders may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.
- It is the riders' responsibility to notify the judge if there is an issue with the music once the test starts. This includes the wrong music or music that cuts out, or is corrupted in some way. The riders' should stop riding the test and let the judge at C know about the issue with the music.

Judges

- The pas de deux must be judged by a USEF-licensed dressage judge at levels appropriate to their license.
- If more than one judge is officiating, all judges must score both technical execution and artistic impression.
- Technical Execution Marks may be given in half or full points. Artistic Impression Marks may be given in tenth (.1) points (recommended to decrease frequency of ties).

Equipment and Turnout

- Whip: USEF-regulation whips are allowed in regular pas de deux classes. Management may restrict the use of whips in championship classes, if it is clearly stated in the prize list.
- Turnout: Attire and equipment must conform to USEF regulations, with the following exceptions:
 - Leg wraps may be used.
 - Costumes are allowed only in specially designated costume classes and only if specifically permitted in the prize list.
- Similarity of equipment and turnout will be considered in the scoring.
- Riding with one hand is allowed.
- Riders in a pas de deux are allowed to hold hands for one movement only during their test. While this could increase the degree of difficulty, the riders must first consider the safety of both horses and riders.

ELEMENTS OF A PAS DE DEUX TEST

Pertinent Definitions:

- "Compulsory Elements": all of the elements to be scored in one box on a dressage test sheet, whether movement, figure, pace, or transition.
- *Movements*:
 1. Test movement: a section of a dressage test to be evaluated with one score on a scoresheet.
 2. Dressage Movements: leg-yield, rein back, shoulder-in, travers, renvers, turn on haunches, half-pass (trot or canter), flying change(s), pirouette (walk or canter), piaffe, and passage.

For the purpose of the current freestyle tests, *forbidden movement(s)* refers to #1. Movements from the USEF test of the same level or below are permitted. Anything "Additionally Allowed" is stated on the scoresheet.

- *Figures*: geometrical component of a dressage test such as circle, serpentine, and figure-of-eight
- *Transitions*: changes between two different gaits or from one pace to another within the same gait
- *Combinations*: direct connection of any movement or figure with another movement or figure.
- *Patterns*: geometric design formed in the arena when movements, figures, and transitions are combined
- *Counter-change of hand*: two (2) half-passes where the horse is straight for a moment before changing direction
- *Zig-zag*: three (3) or more half-passes with change of direction. Counter-change of hand and zig-zags are scored as separate half-passes

REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

- All "Compulsory Elements" for the level must be incorporated into the freestyle program. These are listed on the scoresheet under "Technical Execution."
- Performing a dressage movement (including figures and transitions) only found in a higher-level test than the one being declared is strictly forbidden.
- Any figures, pattern, combinations, or transitions composed of elements permitted in the declared level are permitted.
- Lateral movements must cover a minimum distance of 12m.
- The first and final halt and salute must be near the centerline facing C.
- Rising the trot is not allowed at Second Level or above.

Following is a list of dressage elements (and some combinations and transitions) specifically allowed and forbidden at each level.

Forbidden (ALL LEVELS): any movement or transition found only in tests above the level; Exceptions are listed under "Additionally Allowed."

Training Level

"Compulsory Elements": halt and salute, facing C and near the centerline, at beginning and end of test; medium and free walk (20m continuous each); 20m circle at working trot (right and left); working trot serpentine - loops no smaller than 15m; 20m circle in working canter (right and left)

"Additionally Allowed": trot stretch circle, trot-halt-trot, trot-walk-trot, canter-trot-canter (trot must cover 20m minimum)

First Level

"Compulsory Elements": halt and salute, facing C and near the centerline, at beginning and end of test; medium and free walk (20m continuous each); trot 8-10m circle (right and left); leg-yield at trot, right and left; lengthen stride on a straight line; 15m circle at canter (right and left); change of lead through trot (right and left)

"Additionally Allowed": lengthen trot or canter on a curved line, 20m circle, (Please note: lengthen trot or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.) trot leg-yield any configuration, counter-canter, canter serpentine, turn on forehand, canter lengthen stride.

Second Level

"Compulsory Elements": halt and salute, facing C and near the centerline, at beginning and end of test; medium and free walk (20m continuous each); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); travers (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); medium trot on a straight line; simple change of lead (right and left); counter-canter (right and left); medium canter on a straight line

"Additionally Allowed": half turn-on-haunches (no more than 180 degrees), 8m circle in trot, renvers; medium trot and/or canter on a curved line (Please note: medium trot or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

Third Level

"Compulsory Elements": halt and salute, facing C and near the centerline, at beginning and end of test; medium and extended walk (20m continuous each); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); half-pass in collected trot (right and left); extended trot on a straight line; half-pass in collected canter (right and left); flying change of lead (right and left); extended canter on a straight line

"Additionally Allowed": 8m circles in trot, half-pass zig-zag in trot, walk half-pirouette, canter to halt, counter-change of hand in canter (only one change of direction); flying changes shown in sequence of every five strides or more; medium trot and/or canter on a curved line. (Please note: medium trot or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

Fourth Level

"Compulsory Elements": halt and salute, facing C and near the centerline, at beginning and end of test; collected and extended walk (20m continuous each); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); half-pass in collected trot (right and left); extended trot on a straight line; half-pass in collected canter (right and left); flying change of leads, every third stride (3min.); working half-pirouette in canter (right and left); extended canter on a straight line

"Additionally Allowed": 8m circles in trot or canter, half-pass zig-zag in trot; counter-change of hand in canter (one change of direction); canter half-pirouette

FEI Levels

Follow FEI guidelines for Young Riders, Intermediate I, Intermediate A/B, and Grand Prix freestyle scoresheets for what is forbidden and allowed.

SCORING AND JUDGING

Two (2) sets of marks are given—one for "Technical Execution" and one for "Artistic Impression." Each set of marks is totaled separately, and then those totals are added together and converted to the final percentage score. In the case of two or more judges, scores will be averaged and these averages will comprise the competitor's final score.

Technical Execution:

- The beginning and end of the freestyle must be executed near the centerline facing C and marked with a halt and salute.
- Failure to perform a required element will incur a deduction of one point for each omission. This deduction will be taken under Required Elements – Technical Execution.
- Inclusion of dressage movements clearly "above the level" will incur a penalty of four points from the total for Technical Execution. This deduction will be taken for each forbidden movement, but not for each recurrence of the same movement.
- Compulsory Elements - Technical Execution (coefficient 3)
- Performance as a pair- spacing, alignment, synchrony (coefficient 4)
- Gaits- rhythm & quality
- Impulsion - energy, elasticity, engagement

- Submission – basic issues of submission, technical aspect of the riders
- In scoring Technical Execution, Judge's Marks must be given in half-points or full-points (no tenths).

Artistic Impression:

- Harmony between Horses & Riders, fluency of performance (coefficient 3)
- Choreography: design cohesiveness, use of the arena, balance, creativity, difficulty (coefficient 4)
- Music: suitability, seamlessness, cohesiveness (coefficient 2)
- Interpretation: music expresses gaits, use of phrasing and dynamics
- Elements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored, and a penalty of 1 point will be deducted from the "Total Artistic Impression."

The scores are multiplied by their respective coefficients to give the total for each category.

In scoring "Artistic Impression," Judge's Marks may be given in tenth (.1) points.

Ties

In case of a tie, the higher total for "Artistic Impression" will break the tie.

Download official USDF Pas de Deux scoresheets at: <https://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Tests>

PAS DE DEUX GUIDELINES

Music

- Any type of music may be selected.
- It is strongly recommended that music for a pas de deux ride be of one genre, style, or theme. Mixing musical genres within one program is not recommended. A cohesive musical theme will be scored higher than a disjointed arrangement of musical selections.
- Strict tempo of music in relation to gaits is not required. However, for an effective pas de deux, the tempo of the music should match the tempo of the horses' gaits or suggest the gaits.
- Music that can be interpreted choreographically and create highlights is encouraged.
- Vocals are permitted.
- Entrance music is optional but advised, as it provides a sound check.
- Editing should be fluid and smooth. Choppy or disruptive editing will detract from the overall artistic impression.
- The format for the pas de deux music should be a CD. Final preparation of the music in a professional studio is recommended to ensure proper equalization, balance, and decibel levels.
- The CD should have only the pas de deux ride on it. It should be clearly labeled with the competitors' names, horses' names, and level of ride.
- Always bring an extra copy of the music to the competition. Mark it in the same way as the original, plus some additional notation indicating that it is a backup copy. **ALWAYS HAVE IT READILY AVAILABLE.**
- Consult the competition prize list for information about sound checks and to whom the CD should go. If it is not listed, be sure to check with the show secretary when you check in.
- Each competitor should be permitted one representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the music. This person should not interfere with the show announcer or management in any way.
- According to Section 115 of the Copyright Act, a mechanical license must be obtained for the re-recording of music in any format. For information on obtaining a mechanical license, it is recommended that the rider contact the National Music Publishers Association at www.nmpa.org.
- Competitors must pick up their music CDs before leaving the show. If the competitor does not pick up their music, show management has the option to discard the material.

Choreography

- Each competitive level has specific compulsory elements (listed on the scoresheet) that must be performed.
- The pair can include use of mirror image, side-by-side, head-on and in-line positioning.
- The horses should be shown to best advantage, commensurate with the level of training, and maximizing their strengths.
- Creativity and degree of difficulty in the composition are rewarded.
- The choreography should utilize the entire arena as imaginatively as possible, with a suitable balance between left and right.
- Movements, figures and their placement should be obvious to the judge.

- It is mandatory that lateral movements cover a minimum distance of 12m. For most levels however, 18 m is recommended to help establish the riders' intent.
- While riders are encouraged to take chances and increase the degree of difficulty, care should be taken to not over-face the horses. Points for difficulty are only awarded when the attempt is performed well.
- The letters of the arena serve as markers only. Movements or figures need not be executed at the letters or at specific places. However, the construction should be clear and logical.

Competition Management

The Prize List:

- State level(s) and how results will be tabulated and awarded (combined levels, level of choice, etc.).
- State any limitation on carrying of a whip (championships only).
- State time and place of sound check.
- State when, where, and to whom the CD and instruction should be delivered.
- DR 118: Quadrille and Pas de Deux classes cannot be ridden in Freestyle Test of Choice classes. Quadrilles and Pas de Deux rides may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, which are limited to Quadrilles and Pas de Deux rides.

Score Sheets

- Current USDF scoresheets must be used and may be obtained from the USDF office.

Judges

- If possible, use at least two judges.
- If possible, all judges should be seated at the short end.

Time:

- The rides should be timed with a stopwatch by someone appointed by competition management.
- The official timer should have no other duties during the pas de deux test.

Scheduling:

- A good pas de deux is an audience pleaser and may advantageously be scheduled for maximum audience participation.
- Consideration should be given in the scheduling so that the music does not interfere with activities in adjacent arenas and so that show announcements do not interfere with the music.

Sound and Sound System:

- Unless management can obtain a good, clear, loud sound system, pas de deux classes should not be offered. An unamplified portable CD player at B does not supply sufficient sound quality or volume.
Tip - If the dressage organizers, announcer, or show facility do not have a decent sound system, management should contact schools, clubs, stores, or members to rent, borrow, or buy equipment.
- Well ahead of the competition date, the sound system and acoustics of the facility should be checked. People should be placed at the location of each judge, in the spectator area and in the arena to determine acoustical distortion and volume requirements of the area. (This will change somewhat when the area is filled with people and horses or in the event of wind or weather changes.)
- Sound checks must be provided to riders in Freestyle classes for no fee, either on the day prior to competition or prior to their scheduled class. The requirements and timetable for scheduling sound checks must be published in the prize list.
- The prize list should state when, where, and to whom the CD and instructions should be delivered and when the sound check may be made.

Reporting Scores to USDF

- Pas de Deux scores from every ride performed must be reported to USDF.
- Report the name and USDF number of the horses, riders, and owners.
- Report the judges of the pas de deux class.
- USDF does not record pas de deux scores.

Music Licensing

USEF has contracts with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) to license all USEF-recognized and endorsed competitions and events held in the United States effective 7/1/01.

These contracts grant non-exclusive licenses to USEF for its recognized and endorsed competitions and events to perform, present, or cause the live and recorded performance of all non-dramatic renditions of the separate musical compositions in the ASCAP and BMI repertories.

These repertoires include all copyrighted musical compositions written or published by ASCAP or BMI members or members of affiliated foreign performing rights societies. While some competitions feature music as part of the class, for example in dressage - freestyle to music, many use music for entertainment purposes. The licenses provide another valuable benefit to USEF-recognized and endorsed competitions.

Competition management may request additional information regarding the terms and limitations of both agreements by contacting the USEF office at (859) 258-2472.

USDF Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes, like all other dressage classes, are recognized by USEF. USDF pas de deux and quadrille classes are expressly covered by the USEF rulebook in Chapters DR 120, DR 121, DR129, and DR 130. USEF Chapter DR 120 and DR 121 refers to the USDF Quadrille and Pas de Deux Guidelines for specific information regarding attire, saddlery, equipment and judging specifications for compulsory quadrille tests, freestyle quadrilles, special costume freestyle quadrilles, and pas de deux. Article 130 also states that current USDF rules must be followed.

USEF rules apply to all USEF- licensed/USDF recognized competitions. All rules that would apply to dressage classes also apply to USDF pas de deux and quadrille classes, except where these classes are expressly exempted.