
1. SPORT: Equestrian

2. DESCRIPTION:

The competition is judged on how the horse/pony performs under the influence of the rider. The more skillful the rider, the better the horse is able to perform without resistance, rhythmically and with suppleness—reflecting the skills of the rider.

In the Freestyle to Music test there are some compulsory movements. The rider can also add more difficult movements to form an artistic pattern to ride to his/her chosen music. If the more difficult movements are performed well, it will add to the score, but if performed badly, it will detract more than if they had not been tried at all.

The competition will be EC National Sanctioned.

3. PARTICIPANTS:

a. Competitors:

Advanced Riders will compete in individual championships and the Freestyle. Entry and Intermediate will compete in a championship test only.

b. Coaches/Support/Sport Assistants : Designated by ONTRA and the athletes

c. Horses:

All horses that require stabling must have a valid Coggins test.

4. CLASSIFICATION:

4.1 Advanced and Intermediate Athletes must identify themselves as unclassified and needing classification prior to registration or during registration.

4.2 In recognition of the differing impact of disabilities, all riders are classified into one of five Grades—1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4—to ensure fair equestrian competition.

Classification

Riders are graded on their impairment and judged on their equestrian ability, or skill. This is a functional classification, assessed by PE accredited classifiers. Having been classified, riders are given a functional profile number, and a Grade.

A **National Classification Card** may be obtained from the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association office once a classifier has assigned the grade.

An **International Classification Card** must be obtained from IPEC.

IPEC DRESSAGE GRADES

There are five grades. As of 2006 Grade 1 is split into 1a and 1b.

A rider may enter a higher Grade test than his classification indicates. A rider may not enter a lower Grade test than his classification indicates, but may choose to compete 'hors concours's.

Riders, who are not riding at their classified grade, may take part in a competition '*hors de concours*' (H.C.), but do so under the same rules and conditions as other competitors. They are not eligible for awards.

Grade 1 a - ER Ia

Grade 1 is for the most severely disabled riders. Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and or impairment of function in all four limbs, or no trunk balance and good upper limb function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of all 4 limbs.

Grade 1a is a Walk only test

Grade 1 b - ER Ib

Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and or impairment of function in all four limbs, or no trunk balance and good upper limb function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of all 4 limbs.

Grade 1b is a basic walk / trot test.

Grade 2 - ER II

Mainly wheelchair users or those with severe locomotor impairment involving the trunk and with good to mild upper limb function, or severe unilateral impairment.

The Advanced Level tests are walk/ trot tests, longer and more complex than 1b.

Grade 3 - ER III

Usually able to walk without support. Moderate unilateral impairment or moderate impairment in four limbs, severe arm impairment. May need a wheelchair for longer distances or due to lack of stamina. Total loss of sight in both eyes, or intellectually impaired. Classified Blind riders are Profile 39 and must ride Grade 3. Blacked out glasses or blind fold must be worn by Profile 36 riders.

These riders do a Walk/trot/canter test. Rein back is required.

Grade 4 - ER IV

Riders in this grade are the most able-bodied and have impairment in one or two limbs or some visual impairment.

The Gr. 4 tests required more advanced and difficult dressage elements i.e. lateral work, shoulder in, half pass etc. in walk / trot / canter.

Tests are in a 20 x 60 ring. All other grades ride in a 20 x 40 ring.

For IPEC Tests and Classification info see www.horsesport.org/Para Equestrian

5 ELIGIBILITY:

5.1 Competitors:

- i. The athlete must be a member of Paralympics Ontario's member organization - Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association.

6 FACILITY

Athletes are required to ride specific tests with predetermined patterns in a 20m x 40m arena (20m x 60m for most Grade IV competitions) and a freestyle test to music.

7 COMPETITION:

7.1 Rules:

All ONTRA competitions are conducted in accordance with IPEC/ FEI rules. Competitors are responsible to be familiar with the IPEC / FEI rules.

For IPEC / FEI Rule Book see www.horsesport.org/Para Equestrian

All trot movements may be ridden sitting or rising as the competitor wishes.

Hats must not be removed at the salute, and contact must be maintained on the reins. If necessary, the rider may salute with a nod of the head only.

Schooling of horses - Horses for Grade I and Grade II riders may be ridden and schooled for up to 20 minutes per day by the trainer or coach but may not be schooled by anyone other than the competitor fifteen minutes before the rider enters the competition arena to perform their dressage test.

Horses for Grades III and IV riders may only be ridden and schooled by the rider competing on that horse.

Sharing of horses- Horses may be shared by two (2) riders in different Grades.

7.2 Schedule:

A period of not less than eight minutes should be allowed for the completion of each test.

A minimum of 15 minutes must be allowed between the completion of the first rider's test and the start of the second rider's test where riders are using the same horse, or trained by the same trainer / coach.

8 EQUIPMENT:

When necessary, riders can use compensating aids approved by FEI PE, such as a special saddle, adapted reins, elastic bands, two whips etc

All exceptions to dress, special equipment, compensating aids and other assistance required by the rider shall be clearly listed on the rider's I.P.E.C. / F.E.I. Card. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all special equipment is allowed under I.P.E.C. / F.E.I. rules.

Use of any equipment or exemption that is not covered in the I.P.E.C rules must be clearly listed on the Rider Entry form at the time of entry.

9. OFFICIALS:

- 9.1 Major Officials : Judges – Selected through PSO rep and PO
- one judge on the ring, who must be EC 'M' , USEF 'R' or higher (Para-Equestrian listed is preferred if possible - the list is on www.ipec-athletes.de/ and www.paraequestriancanada.ca)

FEI Stewart/ tack check / technical delegate – Selected through PSO rep and PO
Show Organizer– Selected through PSO rep and PO

- 9.2 Minor Officials – locally trained volunteers and minor officials:
Stable Manager, Show Organizer's Assistant, Announcer, Scribe for each judge, Scorekeeper, Scorekeeper's assistant, Score sheet Runner, Whipper-in / Gate Person, Ring Crew (2)

- 9.3 Vet / Farrier on call.

10. PROTEST PROCEDURES:

- 10.1 To be determined and examined by the head officials in partnership with PSO rep. IPEC / FEI rules will be used.
- 10.2 Results shall be posted in a timely manner, and judges' sheets shall be made available 20 minutes prior to the posting of final class results. All protests must be made prior to the posting of final class results.

11. MEDALS (RIBBONS – Regionals):

Gold: 9 Silver: 9 Bronze: 9

12. COMPETITIVE UNIFORMS

All exceptions to dress, special equipment, compensating aids and other assistance required by the rider shall be clearly listed on the rider's Classification Card.

All riders must be neatly and correctly dressed at all times when mounted.

A suitable riding hat must be worn at all times whilst mounted. It must be of international safety standard and have a well fitting chinstrap and a three or four point harness. The peak (if any) must be soft and flexible. Chinstraps must be fastened at all times when mounted. This rule applies to ALL riders when mounted (including grooms, coaches/trainers, assessors, owners).

Black or brown boots or stout riding shoes with heels must be worn. Black or brown half chaps or gaiters to the knee may be used. If a rider's disability does not allow the wearing of boots / shoes with heels and uses stirrups, approved safety stirrups must be used.

For competitions, light coloured jodhpurs or breeches shall be worn, with a dark coloured short jacket. Gloves shall be worn if possible.