

Western Dressage Apparel, Equipment, and Video Rules

Apparel and Equipment

You are responsible for knowing the correct rules for tack and equipment. USEF equipment and apparel rules apply to the Western Dressage division. For a full list of rules, refer to the USEF Rule Book. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the rules.

Video Rules

You may film your ride as soon as you have your sign. Videos must be in focus. Remember, the judge can only score what they can see, so follow these guidelines carefully!

IMPORTANT! Show Management will review all submissions to ensure adherence to the rules as stated below. If a test does not comply with the rules, Show Management will contact the exhibitor immediately via email, text, or phone. The exhibitor will have 48 hours to resubmit their test from the time of the notification. Please take all guidelines into consideration when preparing your test submissions.

- Use arenas that are as close to regulation size as possible and be sure letters are set appropriately to be viewed by the judge. Cones with large letters on them and poles on the ground to delineate the corners are acceptable. Large letters taped on walls work as well. If a test allows for the use of either the large or small arena, you may show in either size.
- To ensure that only videos taped for this competition are used, videos of tests must be unedited from start to finish, including the sign and equipment check and bosal/bridle/bit drop. It must be one continuous recording with the horse and rider visible from the moment they come down centerline. Any video with edits will not be accepted.
- Bridle and saddle pad numbers are not allowed.
- Videos must be filmed in LANDSCAPE orientation.
- The natural background sound for the test must be audible. Tests with no sound will not be accepted.
- Tests with edits will not be accepted.
- Only video links from YouTube will be accepted. Mark the links as either public or unlisted in YouTube.
- The test must be videoed from behind C, where the judge would normally be seated. Try and set the camera 4-5' off the ground. It makes the geometry easier for the judge to see.
- Prior to beginning the ride, a sign must be held up showing the show name, WDAA show recognition number, video date (optional), horse & rider names, class # and test description. Remove the sign just before the ride begins. The videographer can hold the sign then move back to behind the camera or hold the sign in front of the camera at arm's length while also holding the camera.
- Keep the horse in frame, paying close attention to the near corners. On the far side, you will need to zoom in for clearer judging visibility.
- Make sure to keep the letters in the frame that are elements of the test being performed.
- Calling of Tests: The test pattern may be called freestyles rides.
- Coaching during the test is not allowed EXCEPT for WDAA Exceptional Rider tests.
- Equipment Check:
 - As soon as the test is finished, the camera must slowly circle the horse showing the entire side of the horse (including the feet.) Zoom in show details of the spurs and bit/bridle/bosal.
 - Show the entire horse, including the legs and feet.
 - Zoom in for 3 seconds so the details of the spurs, bosal/bridle, and "bit" are visible.
 - If the videographer is unable to enter the arena, at G the rider may turn the horse slowly, wait five seconds, then turn slowly to show the second side, and wait an additional 5 seconds to complete filming of the equipment.
 - It is permissible to exit the arena for the tack check, as long as the camera stays on the horse the entire time.
 - The rider then dismounts and shows that 2 fingers will fit under the cavesson (noseband) or bosal by the side of the horse's check.
 - After putting 2 fingers under the cavesson or bosal the bridle and bit or bosal must be dropped so it can be evaluated. **Exceptional riders** are exempt from the bridle and bit/bosal dropping requirement and are not required to dismount.
 - Hold the bridle still so the bit can clearly be seen (in focus and in frame) for a minimum count of five seconds. Zoom in so details can easily be seen. Make sure the judge can see all parts of the bridle, including bit and reins clearly.
 - Do not to obscure the bit, curb strap, curb chain with your hands. Hold the equipment still for inspection.
 - A cavesson (noseband) must be shown to the camera, both inside and out. Demonstrate flexibility of the cavesson.
 - Demonstrate that the curb strap or chain is flexible and is at least ½ inch wide.
 - Bosal: After you remove the bosal, show both sides of your horse's face, unobstructed, as well as the inside of the bosal. Demonstrate flexibility its flexibility.