



EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

DRESSAGE QUARTERLY REPORT

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Dressage Committee Chair's Message



In this edition of the Equestrian Canada Dressage Quarterly, we are proud to recognize our international Award Winners for 2018. Many of these recipients were celebrated at the Royal Winter Fair during our Dressage Awards Reception – an event which was relaunched in 2018

and which we are looking to continue and expand in 2019. Congratulations to our international Award Winners. Your contributions to the sport have been exceptional.

The second annual Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium took place last month at the beautiful High Point Equestrian Centre in Langley, BC. Thank you to all those who contributed their time and energy to making this year's event a success. Plans are underway for the 2019 Symposium, which is scheduled for October in Ontario. Be sure to get this event in your calendar.

The Dressage Committee held its fall face-to-face meeting the day after the Symposium. Our Committee holds bi-monthly conference calls and semi-annual face-to-face meetings, along with regular email discussions. We are continuing to work on issues, such as competition structure review, opportunities to increase participation at all levels, promotion of the Rising Stars initiative, national team programming, and planning for the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, PER. In 2019, Alison Martin of British Columbia will be joining the Dressage Committee and Liz Steacie of Ontario will be stepping down. We are grateful to Liz for the many years that she has dedicated to the governance and building of our sport. She will be greatly missed. We welcome Alison and look forward to the perspective she will bring as a rider, coach, and former chef d'équipe. While

our Committee is made up of nine individuals from across the country with backgrounds varying from owner to judge to rider to competition organizer, we need your input as well. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any comments, questions or suggestions. The more involvement we can get from our community the better we will be.

All the best to each of you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and successful 2019!

- Victoria Winter

Member Suggestions

We would like to hear from you - our dressage community. If you have suggestions for the next issue of Dressage Quarterly, please submit those ideas to:

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Office Holiday Closure

Please note that the EC office will close for the holidays starting at 12 p.m. EST on Dec. 24, 2018 and will reopen on Jan. 2, 2019. Emails sent to sportlicences@equestrian.ca will be monitored during the office closure in order to respond to urgent inquiries.

Giving Spirit

In the spirit of holiday giving, Equestrian Canada (EC) presents an exciting new opportunity to support Canadian equestrian sport and industry this holiday season.

This holiday, help ensure the future of the Canadian Equestrian Team and equine industry is bright. EC's *new* donation platform allows you to choose where and how your funds are directed.

Direct your donation today by visiting

www.equestrian.ca/donate.

2018 Dressage Symposium

EC brought decades of collective dressage experience to the west coast at the second annual Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium, held Nov. 17-18, 2018 at the High Point Equestrian Centre in Langley, BC.

Nearly 100 attendees benefitted from unique learning sessions offered by an array of talented presenters, including:

- Training and Competition Planning with EC certified High Performance 1 Dressage Coach, Leslie Reid;
- Parallel Dressage with Para-Dressage High Performance Technical Leader, Clive Milkins;
- Mental Preparation with High Performance 1 Dressage Coach and 2011 Guadalajara Pan American Games silver medalist, Tina Irwin;
- Training Scale with EC/USEF Senior Dressage Judge and retired FEI 4* Dressage Judge, Lorraine MacDonald;
- Perfecting Test Riding with High Performance 1 Coach, Jaimey Irwin;
- Massage Therapy with Canadian Equestrian Team Human and Equine Registered Massage Therapist, Caroline Archambault;
- Performance Analysis with Athlete, Coach and EC Dressage Committee member, Elizabeth Steacie;
- The Rising Stars Equitation Pilot with High Performance 1 Coach, Windy Christoff and Susan Holtby; and,
- Junior, Young Rider, Under 25 and Young Horse Development with EC Senior Dressage Judge and retired FEI 5* Dressage Judge, Cara Whitham.



The 2018 Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium brought multiple dressage experts under one roof at the High Point Equestrian Centre in Langley, BC.

L to R: Sheila Skene, Susan Holtby, Jayda De Mings, Wendy Christoff, Birgit Valkenborg, Sophia Rokstad, Joan Macartney

Photo Credit: © EC/Christine Peters



The wide variety of topics and presenters at the symposium offered something for each of the nearly 100 participants.

Photo Credit: © EC/Christine Peters

"I think it's important to have these symposiums, as they bring so much knowledge and experience together in one place so that our EC dressage community can improve and progress," said Elizabeth Brown of Abbotsford, BC, who is an EC certified Dressage Judge.

"I particularly enjoyed listening to Tina. She was so refreshing and honest about her experience as a top dressage rider for Canada, while wearing many different hats as a mother, coach and trainer."

Brown continued, "Jaimey is a fantastic coach and helped to improve the test riders in a short time. And as an EC judge myself, I found Lorraine's judging of test riders out loud very helpful. She is so clear and concise with her scoring and comments, and always fair. I'm looking forward to the next dressage symposium!"

The symposium, which was free for EC Dressage Levy contributors, not only offered an exclusive, world-class learning opportunity, but also the chance for participants to meet and network with many of their peers.

The weekend wrapped up with a town hall meeting hosted by the EC Dressage Committee, offering participants the opportunity to discuss programs and pertinent issues in-person with their EC representatives.

EC certified Dressage and Para-Dressage Judge, Burgi Rommel of White Rock, BC concluded, "I have been a rider, coach and judge for almost 40 years and realized throughout the symposium that our sport has become so much more sophisticated than it was even 10 years ago. The tools necessary to prepare our athletes – both horse and human – to be the best they can be are readily available now and I think our country has an exciting future in the sport. Every presentation over the weekend was truly informative and interesting, and I came away really inspired and excited to be part of this wonderful journey of dressage. Thank you so much to EC for coming to British Columbia for the symposium."



Sophia Rokstad of Langley, BC and Jayda De Mings of Surrey, BC had an educational weekend as two of the symposium's demonstration riders.

Photo Credit: Stephanie Rokstad

2019 Dressage Symposium Save the Date



Expect to receive an exciting announcement on the Symposium headline speaker in early 2019! You will not want to miss this opportunity!

Combine your fall plans and attend both the Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium and the Ingrid Klimke Masterclass in the same weekend!

Don't miss out on three solid days of education!



Canada's Newest FEI 3* Dressage Judge

Joanne Bouwhuis of Oshawa, ON has earned the elite title of FEI 3* Dressage Judge after passing a rigorous promotion course in Stuttgart, GER from Nov. 15-18, 2018. The position is a testament to Bouwhuis' dressage proficiency, vast knowledge, and lifelong commitment to equestrian sport.

"My parents started taking me to lessons when I was 10 years old and I have always kept riding," said Bouwhuis of her equestrian career. "When not taking lessons at a riding school, I was volunteering to exercise horses for people in the neighbourhood just to keep myself on horses. My first interest involved more jumper, which evolved into Eventing. When the horse I was riding at that time started going blind, my interest shifted again to dressage, where it has stayed."

Since changing her focus to dressage, Bouwhuis has steadily made her way up to Equestrian Canada (EC) Gold level competition. In addition to her role as an athlete, she has been an EC certified coach since 1990 and is currently a Competition Coach Specialist.

The next chapter in Bouwhuis' equestrian career began when she was asked to judge a local dressage show for the Pony Club. She enjoyed the experience so much that she was inspired to add an EC judge's card to her credentials. Bouwhuis explained, "In order to do more judging beyond the local Pony Club, it was necessary to have some type of certification. This led to taking part in my first judge's clinic. The examiner showed so much knowledge and was so willing to share this knowledge that I wanted to learn more."

Over 10 years later, Bouwhuis now holds Senior Status as an EC certified Dressage Judge. She has judged well over 100 national horse shows from coast-to-coast, including several provincial championships.

The natural next step was for Bouwhuis to offer her keen eye and expertise as a judge at the international level. Only three FEI Dressage Judges from Canada were active in 2018 –



Brenda Minor of Acton, ON and Lee Tubman, who resides in Wellington, FL, at the 4* level, and Elizabeth McMullen of Tottenham, ON at the 5* level – so the addition of Bouwhuis to the ranks was particularly significant.

“Over the years, I have had a lot of support from our Canadian FEI Judges and was encouraged to continue my education in the FEI system,” commented Bouwhuis. “Also, with the retirement of so many of our Canadian FEI Judges, there was a need for new FEI judges to represent our country.”

And so, Bouwhuis traveled to Germany to take the comprehensive four-day exam required to earn her FEI 3* credentials.

“We did oral judging, actual judging of the Grand Prix at the show, a written exam and individual interviews,” said Bouwhuis. “The entire group was supportive of each other and friendly. I learned that all the candidates for promotion, regardless from which country, were equally nervous about the exam. We judged members of the German gold medal team from the World Equestrian Games and were able to use high and low marks in the same tests.” Fueled by her passion for the sport and now armed with the necessary qualifications, Bouwhuis is looking forward to the opportunity to soak up as much dressage as possible.



Joanne Bouwhuis of Oshawa, ON has become Canada's newest FEI 3 Dressage Judge after passing her promotion course, held Nov. 15-18, 2018 in Stuttgart, GER.*

Photo Credit – Courtesy of Joanne Bouwhuis

“I enjoy watching horses and riders develop as a partnership,” noted Bouwhuis. “Being able to help guide and reward this partnership through comments and marks from the judge’s box is

rewarding for me. With my recent promotion, I am looking forward to judging at some FEI sanctioned dressage shows, as well as national and provincial shows.”

New Dressage Tests for 2019

2019 brings with it the introduction of new dressage tests, which are in effect for the next four years. EC purchases United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) dressage tests for use in Canada. This year, for the first time, the tests are being distributed through the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) in partnership with USEF. This gives us the opportunity to use USDF tests as well.

At the recent Dressage Committee meeting, we discussed at length which additional tests to use for the next four years. The following USEF and USDF tests have now been approved for use starting January 1, 2019:

- USEF Introductory Tests A - B – C will replace the long used EC Walk/Trot Tests A – B – C – D.
- USEF Training 1-2-3; First 1-2-3; Second 1-2-3; Third 1-2-3 and Fourth 1-2-3.
- USDF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges and Developing Horse Grand Prix.
- USDF Freestyles Training; First; Second; Third and Fourth will replace the EC Freestyles First through Fourth.
- FEI tests remain the same as 2018.

When you review the differences in the technical tests, you will see mostly minor changes, except in Second Level Test 2, which has been substantially changed, and Fourth Level Test 3 is considerably shorter.

The Freestyles are well thought out and now include a Training freestyle which will please many competitors. The biggest differences are that entry after the start of the music must be within 30 seconds (previously 20 seconds); that movements performed after the maximum time will be penalized by 1 point (previously 2 points), and the biggest difference is to the eligibility criteria. For many years 55% at any technical EC level was the requirement before attempting a freestyle; while USDF rules state

63% at the highest test of the level. For 2019 at EC competitions, the eligibility criteria will now be 60% at any technical level but it's likely that EC will reconsider the full criteria for subsequent years.

Do review the new tests over the winter months to be well prepared for the 2019 competition season.

2019 Freestyle Guidelines

Eligibility

Dressage musical freestyle is an exciting combination of the technical and artistic aspects of classical dressage. To foster the highest possible technical quality in freestyle performances, competitors are required to enter a freestyle class only at the level at which they have already demonstrated proficiency. Refer to [EC Rules for Dressage](#), Chapter 10 Freestyle Tests - in order to enter a freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 60% (effective January 1, 2019) at the technical level of the declared freestyle level.

General

Musical freestyles are choreographed by the rider. The pattern, including music selection, is designed to highlight the rider/horse combination in their best light.

- It is judged according to technical execution (execution of compulsory movements) and artistic impression (harmony, choreography, degree of difficulty, music, and interpretation).
- It is performed in a dressage arena (20 x 40 or 20 x 60 depending on level).
- A copy of the pattern is not submitted to the judges in advance.
- Current EC/USDF scoresheets must be used.

Time

- The maximum time limit for all national freestyle tests is five (5) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
- Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One (1) point will be deducted from the total for artistic impression for exceeding the time limit.

- The program is timed from the horse's move-off after the initial halt and salute and ceases at the final salute.
- The rider must signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell, or be eliminated. The rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the start of the music, or they may be eliminated at the discretion of the Judge.
- Exceeding 75 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination.

Music

- Music is mandatory.
- Exit music is not allowed.
- In case of rider's music failing **before or** during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no backup system, the rider 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 rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition, or at the end of the competition. The rider 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. The marks already given will not be changed.
- It is the rider's 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 rider should stop riding the test and let the judge at C know about the issue with the music.

Judges

- Freestyle competitions must be judged by licensed dressage judges, at levels appropriate to their licence.
- Freestyle judges are seated as they would be in a standard test, according to the level of competition.
- If more than one (1) 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

- Attire, tack, and saddlery for all freestyle classes must comply with EC rules.
- Costume classes, etc., may also be offered, if conditions are clearly stated in the prize list.

ELEMENTS OF A DRESSAGE MUSICAL FREESTYLE

- Compulsory Elements: All of the elements to be scored in one box on dressage test sheet, whether movement, figure or transition.
- Movements:
 1. Test movement: a section of a dressage test to be evaluated with one (1) 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):

- Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level is **forbidden**. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.
- Movements from the EC/USEF test of the same level or below are **permitted**. Anything Additionally Allowed is stated on the scoresheet.

Freestyle Definitions

- Figures: geometrical component of a dressage test, such as circles, serpentines, etc.
- 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 connected by change of direction. Counter-change of hand and zig-zags are scored as separate half-passes.

REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

- All compulsory elements must be incorporated into the freestyle program. These are listed on the scoresheet under technical execution.
- Of these, some must be demonstrated on both hands (in both directions).
- Riders must salute during the halt at the beginning and end of the freestyle. The first and final halt must be on the centerline facing C.
- Riders should avoid receiving an error by making sure the salutes are clear to the judge(s).
- Time begins when the horse moves forward after the competitor's halt and salute, and ends with the final halt and salute.
- Reins in one hand are allowed.
- Freestyles may include all dressage movements found in tests of the declared level entered or below.
- Permitted movements, figures, and transitions may be constructed into any combination or pattern of the rider's choosing.
- Lateral movements (shoulder-in, travers, and renvers) must cover a minimum distance of 12 meters.
- Errors: The bell is not rung for errors occurring in USDF Freestyle Tests. Errors occur for failure to salute in the first and final halt or rising at the trot at Second Level and above. Two points will be deducted for each error; however, they are not cumulative, and will not result in elimination.

The following is a list of dressage movements (and some combinations and transitions) specifically permitted at each level.

Training Level

Compulsory Elements:



Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); 20m circle in working trot (right and left); serpentine in working trot with loops no smaller than 15m; stretch forward & downward on a 20m circle

Forbidden:

Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under *Additionally Allowed*.

Additionally Allowed:

Trot-halt-trot, trot-walk-trot, trot-canter-trot (minimum of 20m of trot) .

First Level

Compulsory Elements:

Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); 10m circle in working trot (right and left); leg-yield in working trot (right and left); lengthen stride in trot on a straight line; 15m circle in working canter (right and left); (must be done in true canter to fulfill the compulsory requirement); change of lead through trot, (right and left); lengthen stride in canter on a straight line.

Forbidden:

Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under *Additionally Allowed*.

Additionally Allowed:

Turn on forehand (no more than 180 degrees); lengthen trot and/or canter on a curved line; canter serpentine; counter-canter; (Please note: lengthening in trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

Second Level

Compulsory Elements:

Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) at collected trot right and left; travers in collected trot (12m min.), (right and left); medium trot on a straight line; simple change of lead (right and left); counter-canter in collected canter, (right and left); medium canter on straight line.

Forbidden:

Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under *Additionally Allowed*

Additionally Allowed:

Half turn on haunches (no more than 180 degrees); renvers; medium canter and/or trot, on a curved line. (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

Third Level

Compulsory Elements:

Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); extended walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot, (right and left); trot half-pass in collected trot, (right and left); extended trot on straight line; canter half-pass in collected canter, (right and left); flying changes of lead, (right and left); extended canter on straight line.

Forbidden:

Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under *Additionally Allowed*.

Additionally Allowed:

Half walk pirouettes (no more than 180 degrees); half-pass zig-zag in trot; canter to halt; counter-change of hand in canter (only one change of direction); medium trot and/or canter on a curved line; (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement); flying changes shown in sequence of every five strides or more.

Fourth Level

Compulsory Elements:

Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; collected walk (20m continuous); extended walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); trot half-pass in collected trot (right and left); extended trot on a straight line; canter half-pass in collected canter (right and left); flying changes of lead every third stride (3 min.); canter working half-pirouette (right and left); extended canter on straight line

Forbidden:

Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under *Additionally Allowed*.

Additionally Allowed:

Medium trot and/or canter on a curved line; (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement); half-pirouettes in canter; half-pass zig-zag in trot, and counter-change of hand in canter (only one change of direction); halt to canter

It is strongly recommended that competitors obtain and carefully study the current scoresheets from EC/USDF

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

Preliminary Marks, Judge's Mark, and Final Score are columns which appear on the scoresheet.

- Preliminary Marks will be given for each execution of the compulsory elements. For Compulsory Elements that must be shown on both hands, Preliminary Marks will be given for each direction separately, all attempts will be considered for the Judge's Marks.
- If a required element is not performed, it will receive a score of zero (0) under Final Score.
- If a required element that must be shown on both hands is not shown at all, it will receive a score of zero (0) under Final Score.
- If a required element that must be shown on both hands is shown on only one hand, it will receive a zero (0) for the direction that was not shown.
- In addition, omission of a required element or direction will affect the artistic impression under Degree of Difficulty and Choreography, depending on what was omitted.

- In scoring technical execution, Judge's Mark must be given in half-points or full points (no tenths).
- Movements Above the Level (found ONLY in a higher-level test) receive a deduction of four (4) points from the total for Technical Execution for each illegal movement, but not for each recurrence of the same movement.

Artistic Impression

- In scoring artistic impression, Judge's Marks may be given in tenths (.1) increments.
- Elements performed after the five-minute time limit has elapsed will not be scored, and a penalty of (1) point will be deducted from the Total Artistic Impression.

Tie

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

UNDERSTANDING THE ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

(Bold italic denotes the exact wording of the artistic side of the 2019 USDF Freestyle Scoresheet. Coefficients listed are for First through Fourth Levels) .

- ***Harmony Between Horse and Rider (coefficient 3)***
The partners' positive connection showing rapport, trust, and confidence in one another; a sense of synchrony, contentment, and unity; the ability to accomplish the choreographic patterns with ease.
- ***Choreography – design cohesiveness, use of arena, balance, creativity (coefficient 4)***
Complete and balanced use of space; logical development and clarity of construction; balanced use of rein; construction of combinations and patterns .
- ***Degree of Difficulty (coefficient 2)***
Well-calculated risks; the horse/rider team performs a single element or a combination of elements in a way that exceeds the expectation of the level. There is a detailed Degree of Difficulty Guideline available on the [USDF website](#).
- ***Music – suitability, cohesiveness, seamlessness (coefficient 3)***



Appropriateness of the music to the type and character of horse; music selections are from one genre, style, or theme; cuts and transitions are smooth and create an overall flow of the music.

- ***Interpretation – music expresses gaits, use of phrasing & dynamics (coefficient 3)***
Appropriateness of the rhythm and tempo of the music to the gaits of the horse; choreography reflects changes in the music.

MUSICAL FREESTYLE GUIDELINES

Music

- Any type of music may be selected.
- It is strongly recommended that music for a freestyle 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 freestyle, the tempo of the music should match the tempo of the horse's gaits or suggest the gait.
- Music that can be interpreted choreographically and create highlights is encouraged.
- Vocals are permitted.
- Entrance music is optional but strongly advised, as it provides a sound check.
- Music must cease at the final halt and salute.
- Editing should be fluid and smooth. Choppy or disruptive editing will detract from the overall artistic impression.
- The format for the freestyle 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 freestyle ride on it. It should be clearly labeled with the competitor's name, horse's name, 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. If it is not listed in the prize list contact competition management for details.
- Freestyle competitors should make every effort to attend the sound check. They should check the volume at the judges stand to ensure it is able to be easily heard but not so loud as to be distorted or make it difficult for the judge to communicate with the scribe.

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 that must be performed.
- The horse should be shown to its best ability. Special strengths can be maximized while minimizing weaknesses. The design of the ride should be commensurate with the ability of the horse and rider.
- Compulsory Elements are those that are listed on the freestyle scoresheets. At each level, certain elements must be shown in both directions.
- Competitors must not use movements that are clearly above the level being shown. Refer to test sheets.
- Additionally Allowed and Compulsory Elements may be shown in any pattern, placement, or order.
- It is mandatory that a lateral movement cover a minimum distance of 12m. For most levels however, 18m is recommended to help establish the rider's intent.



- A composition that is creative will be scored higher than one that looks like a reworked dressage test set to music. However, the construction should still be logical, clear, and understandable.
- The freestyle choreography should utilize the entire arena, not just the rails and diagonals. Creativity in the use of figures and space is encouraged. Movements should be presented clearly enough to be easily identifiable by the judge.

Tip - Remember that at championships multiple judges will be assessing your choreography.

What is clear from C may not be clear from B.

- When movements are included with the intent to increase the Degree of Difficulty, care should be taken not to over-face the horse. Points for difficulty are only awarded when the attempt is performed well.
- The letters of the arena serve as markers. Movements or figures need not be executed at the letters.
- To encourage the highest possible technical quality in freestyle performances, competitors are urged to perform freestyles at one level below the level at which they are schooling. This will allow for more confidence in the performance and better artistic impression.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

The Prize List

- State level(s) and how results will be tabulated and awarded (combined levels, level of choice, etc.).
- State time and place of sound check(s).
- State when, where, and to whom the CD and instructions should be delivered.

Classes Offered

- Training, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Level freestyles may be offered as four separate classes or as a combined “EC/USDF Freestyle Test of Choice” class. However, it is best to separate the classes if entries warrant. When reporting freestyle scores to EC, the level of each ride must be indicated. FEI Intermediate I, Intermediate A/B, Grand Prix, Young Rider, and Junior freestyle classes may also be offered, but these are judged according to FEI rules.

- Freestyle tests may be ridden only in classes, (including Test of Choice classes) that are limited to freestyles.

Scoresheets

- Current EC/USDF scoresheets must be used. Scoresheets are available at www.equestrian.ca/sport/dressage/tests.
- FEI freestyle scoresheets are available at www.fei.org.
- These scoresheets are copyrighted. Consult the USDF office for licensing information.

Judges

- EC/USDF Freestyles must be judged by licensed dressage judges at the levels appropriate to the licence.

Time

- The rides should be timed with a stopwatch by someone appointed by the competition management. The official timer should have no other duties during the freestyle class except to accurately time the rides. In addition, for championship classes, a backup timer is advisable. The timer should inform the judge immediately when five (5) minutes has elapsed, as well as the final total time used.
- If an official timer is not available, a stopwatch or timer should be provided to the judge or scribe so each freestyle test can be timed. Please note there is a one-point penalty from the total Artistic Impression for exceeding the time limit.

Scheduling

- The demands of judging freestyles are considerable and require more time than regular dressage tests, therefore, freestyles should be scheduled at intervals of at least nine or ten minutes.
- Freestyles are intended to be audience pleasers and should always be scheduled at times chosen for maximum audience participation.
- Freestyles should be scheduled so that the music does not interfere with activities in adjacent arenas and so that show announcements do not interfere with the music.
- To encourage entries in freestyle classes, it is suggested to offer a class and awards at



each level rather than combining all freestyle levels.

Sound and Sound System

- Unless management can obtain a good, clear, loud sound system, freestyle 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 acoustic 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.
- Freestyle competitors should make every effort to attend the sound check. They should check the volume at the judges stand to ensure music can be easily heard but not so loud as to be distorted and make it difficult for the judge to communicate with the scribe.

Happy Retirement to D Niro

When Mary Brooks and Brookhaven Dressage Inc. purchased Swedish Warmblood gelding, D Niro (D-Day x Napoleon 625) in 2011, Jacqueline Brooks of Cedar Valley, ON had less than 18 months to hone her new horse's Grand Prix skills in time for the 2012 London Olympics.

Incredibly, once there, the newly minted pair executed what Brooks still considers one of their

best Grand Prix performances to date.

Six years later, Brooks and the now 19-year-old D Niro have come to be perfectly in sync, as demonstrated by a winning record. Highlights of their stellar career together include a career best score of 74.300% that earned first place in the Grand Prix Freestyle at the 2012 Dressage at Devon CDI-W. D Niro racked up additional wins in the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle at the 2014 Saugerties CDI-W, as well as at the 2015 CDI-W in Brooks' hometown of Cedar Valley. In 2016, D Niro went on to represent Canada at the Wellington Nations Cup CDIO 3* helping the team earn silver.



One of the most memorable experiences for Brooks and D Niro, however, occurred at the 2013 Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Final in Göteborg, SWE. Not only did the duo earn a top 15 world ranking, but the fans welcomed the Swedish-born gray home by clapping in unison to welcome D Niro into the arena from the warm-up ring. Alongside a tearful reunion with his breeder, the trip turned into an emotional homecoming that recognized and honoured D Niro's many achievements across the globe.

Brooks and D Niro also came to be long-time fan favourites at the Royal Horse Show, known for firing up crowds with their creative and engaging freestyle performances. Therefore, it was fitting that D Niro's retirement ceremony took place at the 2018 Royal with an emotional Freestyle performance, interestingly set mainly to an acoustic cover of Simon and Garfunkle's The Sound of Silence by the metal band, Disturbed.

Award Winners (International)

2018 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: BEATRICE BOUCHER



Beatrice Boucher of Saint-Dominique, QC was named Athlete of the Year after a successful 2018 season riding Delfiano, Gilles Bergeron's 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding sired by Del Piero.

In their second year of partnership, Boucher and Delfiano made a strong impression at the 2018 Adequan Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) in Wellington, FL. The pair's AGDF highlight came in the CDI-Y Individual Competition on March 17, where they danced to a score of 68.725% for first place.

Boucher's most remarkable achievement of 2018, however, was her strong, consistent performances at the Adequan/FEI North American Youth Championships in North Salem, NY. There, she battled the best of her peers from across the continent to claim a spot on the podium in each of her three classes in the Young Riders division.

Boucher and Delfiano kicked off the competition by scoring 68.471% in the Team Competition, contributing to Team Quebec/Alberta's impressive total score of 201.145, which won the gold medal on Aug. 1.

Next, Boucher captured two individual silver medals, starting with the Individual Competition on Aug. 3, in which she scored 71.029%. On

Aug. 5, Boucher returned to the ring to close her season on a personal best score of 72.800% in the Freestyle for her second silver medal.

2018 DRESSAGE HORSE OF THE YEAR: ALL IN



For the second consecutive year, All In (Tango x Damiro), a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding co-owned by Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu of Saint-Bruno, QC, her father, Craig Fraser and husband, Marc-Andre Beaulieu, has won the coveted title of Horse of the Year.

The 2018 honour was awarded in light of his continued excellence in the ring, culminating in an impressive performance at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018 (WEG).

All In's striking presence and command of the test movements earned a handful of top-three placings in 2018, including wins in the Adequan Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) CDI 4* Grand Prix on March 15 (71.957%) and the Ottawa Dressage Festival CDI 3* Grand Prix Special on May 20 (72.319%).

He also earned a personal best score in the AGDF CDIO 3* Nations' Cup Grand Prix Freestyle on March 30 when he wowed the judges to the tune of 76.990% – a score that led Team Canada to a silver-medal finish in the prestigious competition.

However, the highlight of All In's 2018 season was still to come: the large liver chestnut earned the distinction of being the highest-scoring Canadian horse at WEG 2018, earning 70.016% in the Grand Prix on Sept. 12. The score placed

him in 33rd place, just shy of the top 30 moving on to the Grand Prix Special, in his first-ever WEG appearance.

2018 OWNER OF THE YEAR: GILLES BERGERON



Gilles Bergeron (right), pictured with Camille Carier Bergeron and Expression

Photo Credit – Courtesy of Camille Carier Bergeron

Gilles Bergeron of Mascouche, QC was named Owner of the Year in appreciation of his direct support of Canadian youth athletes through the provision of world-class equine partners: Five of his horses are currently competing in dressage across the globe with several of Canada's rising stars.

Beatrice Boucher of Saint-Dominique, QC began riding Bergeron's 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding, Delfiano (sired by Del Piero), in 2017, and the pair has quickly asserted their dominance at the FEI Young Riders level.

Most notably, Boucher and Delfiano brought three medals home to Canada from the 2018 Adequan/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), held in North Salem, NY. They began their run with a gold-medal performance in the Team Competition on Aug. 1, scoring 68.471% to contribute to a total high score of 210.145 for Team Quebec/Alberta.

Additionally, the pair rounded out their medal collection with two individual silvers, earned in the Individual Competition on Aug. 3 (71.029%) and the Freestyle on Aug. 5 (72.800%).

Bergeron's daughter, Camille Carier Bergeron of Mascouche, QC, competed alongside Boucher at

NAYC 2018 as a member of the winning Team Quebec/Alberta. She rode Baldacci, (Havidoff x Rubiquil), a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding she co-owns with her father, to a third-place finish individually on a score of 70.353% to help clinch the gold in the Young Riders Team Competition.

Carier Bergeron also reached great heights in the CDI-Y division with a second horse co-owned with Bergeron, a 13-year-old Westphalian gelding named Expression (Siberian Express x Florestan). Together, the pair earned four first-place finishes in 2018.

At AGDF 2018, they won the Team Test on Feb. 23 (70.000%), the Individual on Feb. 24 (70.176%), and the Team Test on March 16 (73.637%). At the Black Tie CDI 3* in Calgary, AB, they captured first in the Team Competition on June 1 with a score of 70.471%.

Carier Bergeron made headlines yet again with a third horse of Bergeron's, a 10-year-old Westphalian gelding, Sound of Silence 4 (San Amour I x Limes). The duo was part of the winning Team B in the inaugural \$45,000 International Omaha Team Dressage Challenge in Omaha, NE, on April 12-15.

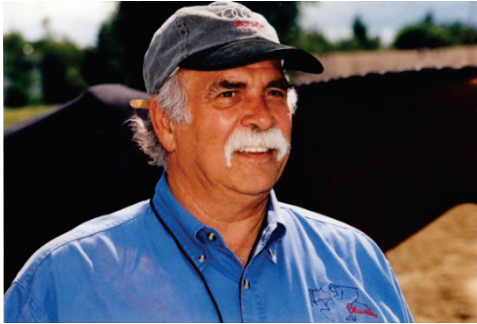
Junior rider, Arielle Bourget Martineau of Saint-Laurent, QC, also benefited from Bergeron's generosity as she rode Varekai, his 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare sired by Krack C, during the 2018 season.

In addition to horse ownership, Bergeron supports athlete development through his role as a presenter of the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships.

The competition allows young riders to compete at the prestigious AGDF and gain invaluable championship experience as they prepare for or begin their FEI careers.

Through the tireless dedication of his effort, care, and first-rate horses, Bergeron is advancing the quality of dressage in Canada and ensuring its continued success on the world stage.

**2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
JEAN-PIERRE ARVISAIS**



The title of Volunteer of the Year was awarded to the late Jean-Pierre Arvisais of Blainville, QC, who advanced the state of dressage immeasurably both in Quebec and across Canada through his role as co-founder of Blainville Equestrian Park.

The annual CDI-W Blainville International Classic had a prolific impact on Canadian dressage throughout its existence of over a decade. The celebrated competition attracted top-level athletes from all over the world, as well as hosted qualifiers and selection trials for major championships such as the FEI Dressage World Cup or Olympic Games.

As the event's Organizing Committee President, Arvisais also designed and masterfully marketed the illustrious Freestyle Gala. This evening of world-class entertainment included a dinner set against the backdrop of Grand Prix and Intermediate I Freestyle performances. Tickets to the Freestyle Gala were some of the hottest in town and sold out every single year.

Blainville Equestrian Park offered numerous opportunities under Arvisais' direction that made dressage accessible to the Canadian community at large, such as Le Poney-Club de Blainville, which still operates today to engage local youth in equestrian sport.

From programs reaching beginners who had never before ridden a horse, to competitions that showcased the best talent Canada had to offer, Arvisais worked tirelessly to create excitement around and encourage participation in dressage. The effects of his care and dedication will be felt in Canada for years to come.