



**INTERSCHOLASTIC  
EQUESTRIAN<sup>TM</sup>  
ASSOCIATION**

IT'S YOUR FUTURE. TAKE THE REINS.

**Rules and Regulations of Membership  
Dressage Discipline**

as Revised May 15, 2025

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**Rule D3000: DRESSAGE CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

D3100 General - All Disciplines	1
D3200 Rider Classification and Class Eligibility	1
D3300 Dressage Class Descriptions	2
D3301 Dressage Varsity and Junior Varsity (Upper School) Classes	2
D3302 Dressage Future (Grades 4-8) Classes	4
D3303 Champion Dressage Award	6
D3304 Dressage Rider Tests for DSE Classes and Class Placement	6

**Rule D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

D4220 Additional Dressage Show Information Requirements	7
D4400 Show Routine	7
D4401 Arena Requirements	7
D4402 Schooling Procedures	8
D4407 Rider Warm-up	8
D4411 Tack and Aids	8
D4412 Dress and Headgear - Proper Show Attire	9
D4600 Tie-Breaker Rules	10

**RULE D6000: SHOW STAFF AND OFFICIALS**

D6104 Responsibilities and Qualifications of a Scribe	11
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**RULE D7000: DRESSAGE JUDGING REQUIREMENTS**

D7200 Dressage Judging Requirements and Guidelines	11
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**RULE D8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST-SEASON QUALIFICATION**

D8200 Dressage Post-Season Qualification	12
D8300 Dressage Region Finals	12
D8400 Dressage Zone Finals	13
D8500 National Finals	13
D8504 Class Specifications - Dressage Team Competition	13
D8505 Class Specifications - Dressage Individual Rider Competition	13

**DRESSAGE RULES SECTION**

**\*\*The rules herein apply only to the dressage discipline and are supplemental to the general rules applying to all disciplines.\*\***

These Rules and Regulations shall take precedence over all other rules and regulations of other similarly situated organizations. No IEA Region or Zone may adopt rules inconsistent herewith. However, if a topic is not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the following rules may be referenced as guidance in making an equitable decision under the circumstances:

- For the Dressage discipline: first the rules and regulations of the Intercollegiate Dressage Association ("IDA") and then, if not resolved, the the rules of the appropriate national governing body (NGB).

**RULE D3000: DRESSAGE CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

**D3100 General - All Disciplines** - Refer to Rule G3000 for additional general rules for classes and tests: rider placement and eligibility criteria.

**D3200 Rider Classification and Class Eligibility**

**D3202 Initial Class Placement and Advancement for Dressage**

**D3202.1** Initial placement of dressage riders must be based upon the class descriptions in Rule D3300.

**D3202.2** Initial rider placement in dressage classes must be within the same class eligibility level. Competing in two different class levels is permitted only when a rider points out in the DSE (dressage seat equitation) class.

**D3202.3** Riders without experience performing a dressage test should be assessed according to their ability to perform flatwork tests, as listed in Rule D3304.

**D3202.4 Crossover Riders**

Open or Intermediate dressage riders may not be placed or compete lower than novice in any hunt seat or western class. Riders will progress per advancement criteria outlined in Rule G3200 with particular attention to Rule G3201.5. The riders experience and skill set should determine whether or not they compete in the performance class (over fences, reining/ranch riding, dressage test) or just in the group flat/rail class (flat, horsemanship, DSE). Mandatory or voluntary advancement in a class/level in one discipline may also require advancement in a class/level in the crossover division.

**D3202.5** Riders who advance in a dressage test class through voluntary advancement, **three-year** ~~two-year~~ participation, pointing out, or qualifying for national finals must also advance in dressage seat equitation.

Dressage riders who advance to a higher division/class level in the DSE are not required to advance to the higher division/class level in the dressage test class.

Thus, competing in two different divisions/class levels is permitted only when a rider advances in the DSE.

**D3300 Dressage Class Descriptions**

**D3301 Dressage Varsity and Junior Varsity (Upper School) Classes**

**CLASS D1. Varsity Open Dressage Test:**

- Test: IEA Open Rider Test
- Open to riders in grades 9-12 who are not otherwise eligible for the varsity intermediate, or lower divisions.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 12.

To be eligible for post-season competitions in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) open DSE classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open test classes and two (2) open DSE classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D2. Varsity Open Dressage Seat Equitation (DSE):**

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 12.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open dressage seat equitation classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D3. Varsity Intermediate Dressage Test:**

- Test: IEA Intermediate Rider Test
- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Open to riders who have not competed in a recognized or schooling dressage competition at Second level or higher.
- Riders may not have been rated B or higher by the United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
- Riders who have won ten (10) or more blue ribbons in jumping events at 3'3" (1.0 meter) or higher are not eligible for intermediate classes (Rule G3101).
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 9.

## **RULE D3000: DRESSAGE CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate or open dressage seat equitation classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate test classes and two (2) intermediate or open DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D4. Varsity Intermediate Dressage Seat Equitation:**

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 9.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D5. Junior Varsity Novice Dressage Test:**

- Test: IEA Novice Rider Test
- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Open to riders who have not competed in six (6) or more first level tests or competed at a level higher than first level in any recognized or schooling dressage competition.
- Riders may not have been rated C+, C-3 or higher by the United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 7.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) novice or intermediate DSE classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice test classes and two (2) novice or intermediate DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D6. Junior Varsity Novice Dressage Seat Equitation:**

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 7.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice DSE classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D7. Junior Varsity Beginner Dressage Seat Equitation - Walk/Trot/Canter:**

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Open to riders who have not competed in six (6) training level tests or competed at a level higher than training, in any recognized or schooling dressage competition, including those recognized by USDF, USEF or USEA.
- Riders may not have been rated C-2 or above by the United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
- Riders must be experienced enough to canter on an unfamiliar animal in a group.
- To be eligible for Class D7, a rider must have had at least one year continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at the trot and canter, and be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 6.
- **Riders may not cross-enter into Class D8 Walk/Trot.**

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) beginner DSE walk/trot/canter flat classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D8. Junior Varsity Beginner Dressage Seat Equitation - Walk/Trot:**

- Open to riders in grades 9-12 **who meet criteria for Class D7 but are not yet ready to compete on an unfamiliar horse at a canter.**
- To be eligible for Class D8, riders must have at least six (6) months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- Riders should be capable of performing DSE Tests 1 - 5.
- Individual points will be tracked in Class D8 Walk/Trot for post-season qualification.
- No team points will be awarded in Class D8 Walk/Trot during regular or post-season shows.
- **Riders may not cross-enter Class D7 Walk/Trot/Canter.**

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

**CLASS D7x / D8x. Junior Varsity Beginner Dressage Seat Equitation - Walk/Trot Warm-Up:**

Optional offering that can combine with Future Class D13x / D14x. Open only to riders competing at that competition in Class D7 or Class D8. No individual or team points will be awarded.

**D3302 Dressage Future (Grades 4-8) Classes**

**CLASS D9. Future Intermediate Dressage Test:**

- Test: IEA Intermediate Rider Test

## **RULE D3000: DRESSAGE CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for dressage Class D1- Varsity Open Dressage Test or Class D3- Varsity Intermediate Test.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 9.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate DSE classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate test classes and two (2) intermediate DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D10. Future Intermediate Dressage Seat Equitation:**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 9.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D11. Future Novice Dressage Test:**

- Test: IEA Novice Rider Test
- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for dressage Class D5- Junior Varsity Novice Test.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 7.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) novice or intermediate DSE classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice test classes and two (2) novice or intermediate DSE classes during the regular season.

### **CLASS D12. Future Novice Dressage Seat Equitation:**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for dressage Class D6- Junior Varsity Novice DSE.
- Riders must be able to walk, trot, canter, and halt in a group class.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Equitation Tests 1 - 7.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice DSE classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D13. Future Beginner Dressage Seat Equitation - Walk/Trot/Canter:**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of dressage Class D7- Junior Varsity Beginner DSE - Walk/Trot/Canter.
- Riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Tests 1 - 6.
- **Riders may not cross-enter into Class D14 Walk/Trot.**
- To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.
- To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) beginner walk/trot/canter flat classes during the regular season.

**CLASS D14. Future Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot:**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of dressage Class D8.
- To be eligible for Class D14, riders must have at least six (6) months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- These riders should be capable of performing Dressage Seat Tests 1 - 5.
- Individual points will be tracked in Class D14 Walk/Trot for post-season qualification.
- No team points will be awarded in Class D14 Walk/Trot during regular or post-season shows.
- **Riders may not cross-enter Class D13 Walk/Trot/Canter.**
- To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

**CLASS D13x / D14x. Future Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot Warm-Up:** Optional offering that can combine with JV Class D7x / D8x. Open to riders competing in Class D13 or Class D14. No individual or team points will be awarded.

**D3303 Dressage Leading Rider Award**

Presented at regular season shows to the high point open rider with the greatest total combined class points from the Class 1D Varsity Open Test and Class 2D Varsity Open DSE. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the higher individual test score in Class D1. (If the test scores are tied, refer to Dressage Rule D4600).

**D3304 Dressage Rider Tests for DSE Classes and Class Placement**

Riders must be prepared to perform the tests appropriate for the dressage seat equitation class in which they are participating. Riders may be asked to perform the following test collectively or individually during a competition. A dressage judge may choose from the following list, using tests 1 - 5 for the Beginner Walk/Trot classes, 1 - 6 for the Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter classes, 1 - 7 for the Novice classes, 1 - 9 for the Intermediate classes, and 1 - 12 for the Open classes.

**RULE D3000: DRESSAGE CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

**Tests 1 - 5 (Beginner Walk/Trot)**

1. Ask an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level
2. Halt
3. Transitions using the walk, rising trot, and canter
4. 20m circles
5. Change horses

**Tests 1 - 6 (Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter)**

6. Figure eight or serpentine at the trot demonstrating changes of diagonal

**Tests 1 - 7 (Novice)**

7. Figure eight at the canter demonstrating changes of lead through the trot

**Tests 1 - 9 (Intermediate)**

8. Sitting trot
9. Lengthening at the trot

**Tests 1 - 12 (Open)**

10. Lengthening at the canter
11. 10m circles at the trot
12. 15m circles at the canter

**RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** - Refer to G4000 regarding regular season competitions: requirements, procedures, and responsibilities

**D4220 Additional Dressage Show Information Requirements (refer to G4220 for general list)**

The following additional information must be posted for all coaches and riders in a timely manner on the day of the show:

**D4220.5** Test reporting forms with scores and results.

**D4400 Show Routine**

**D4401 Arena Requirements**

**D4401.1** The arena intended for riders to perform a test will be either a small arena: 20 meters x 40 meters or a large arena: 20 meters x 60 meters, and contain all necessary letter markers.

**D4401.2** The perimeter of the arena shall be no lower than 0.3 meters (approximately 12 inches) and shall be fully enclosed except for the entrance at A. The perimeter must be made of unbreakable materials to eliminate the chance the horse will become entangled. If the outdoor or indoor ring being used is the correct size, and has a wall or fence, no additional perimeter is needed.

## **RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D4401.3** The letter A should be placed 5 meters from the entrance, and all remaining letters should be placed 0.5 meter (19.69") from the arena/enclosure. It is recommended to also mark the arena/enclosure or wall/fence in addition to the letter (e.g. marker or tape).

**D4401.4** DSE classes may run in a dressage court or in a larger arena. If letters are being used in a larger arena, they must be measured and appropriately placed.

### **D4402 Schooling Procedures (see also Rule G4402)**

**D4402.4** Dressage horses may be schooled in the manner that best prepares them for the class.

### **D4407 Rider Warm-up**

**D4407.1** Riders participating in dressage test classes will be allowed ~~a minimum of a two (2) minute warm-up prior to the bell, either in the show arena, or in a designated warm-up area. Event hosts may expand this time as long as each rider is allowed the same amount of time for warm-up.~~ Once the defined warm-up time has concluded riders must walk (medium or free) until the judge signals readiness by a whistle or bell. The rider then has 45 seconds to begin their test.

**D4407.2** Warm-ups are unjudged. Falls and errors in warm-up do not necessitate elimination. Disregarding directions from schooling supervisors may result in loss of schooling privileges or elimination.

### **G4408 Class Routine**

**D4408.4** Riders competing in dressage test classes may use readers during regular season shows. Readers are not allowed in post-season shows.

### **D4411 Tack and Aids (see also Rule G4411)**

**D4411.11** Dressage saddles are required for all open, intermediate, and novice classes. All-purpose saddles may be used for beginner classes. Close contact saddles are not permitted. ~~Traditional stirrup irons or black stirrups are acceptable.~~ If the type of saddle or stirrup comes into question, the final decision is at the discretion of the show steward.

**D4411.12** ~~The use of safety stirrup irons is strongly encouraged. All dressage stirrup irons must have stirrup bars in the down or open position and must have stirrup treads.~~

**D4411.12** All saddles must have stirrup bars in the down or open position. Coaches and riders are responsible for checking the stirrup bar position prior to mounting.

## **RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D4411.13** No saddle may have an attachment that is a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.

**D4411.14** Traditional stirrup irons or black stirrups are acceptable. If the type of ~~saddle or~~ stirrup comes into question, the final decision is at the discretion of the show steward.

**D4411.15** Peacock and hook-and-loop stirrups are no longer permitted in IEA shows as they have upward pointing projections that might hook or catch a rider's clothing or person when dismounting.

**D4411.16** All stirrup irons must have stirrup treads in good condition.

**D4411.17** A plain snaffle bridle with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, or a flash noseband is required.

### **D4411.18 Bits**

1. Must be snaffle type with a smooth solid surface
2. Must comply with the national governing body's (NGB) regulations for Second Level and below
3. Must be inspected by the show steward visually or physically during the official schooling

**D4411.19** Martingales are not permitted.

### **D4411.20 Spurs**

1. Are not permitted to be used by beginner riders
2. May only be used by novice, intermediate, and open riders when indicated in the horse description
3. Must be supplied by the horse provider; on the day of competition, any changes to spurs provided with the horse and noted in the horse description must be approved by the show steward
4. May be no longer than 1 inch (measured from the end of the shank)
5. Must be blunt/smooth

### **D4411.21 Whips**

1. The whip including the lash may be no longer than 120cm (47.2 inches)
2. Adjustable whips are not permitted at any time

**D4411.22** Boots and bandages are permitted at the discretion of the horse provider.

## **D4412 Dress and Headgear - Proper Show Attire**

## **RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D4412.9** Dressage Attire - Riders are expected to wear appropriate dressage attire while showing. Appropriate attire includes a short coat or riding jacket, shirt with a tie, choker, stock tie, or stand-up collar, black or white gloves, white or tan breeches with tall boots or white/tan jodhpurs with jodhpur straps, garter straps, and paddock boots. Riding helmets must be harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM/SEI-approved safety helmet for equestrian use per Rule G4412.3.

Conservative colored coats are encouraged. Variations from defined dressage attire in DSE and test classes (other than the safety riding helmet requirements) are discouraged but not cause for disqualification (e.g. bright colors, patterns, shadbellies, and half chaps...).

Using position aids and wearing attire with team identifying logos or promotional logos in the competition ring are causes for disqualification (Rules G4412.6 and G4412.7).

**D4412.10** At all times while mounted, riders must wear a harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet for equestrian use. Riders whose headgear becomes lost or unfastened while in the show ring will be disqualified and immediately excused from the ring. Helmets and chin straps must be fitted properly according to manufacturer's instructions.

### **D4600 Tie Breaker Rules**

#### **D4601 Team Competition**

At all shows, including post-season, for all placings, team ties shall be broken in the following manner:

1. Total number of first (1<sup>st</sup>) place finishes, then by total number of second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finishes, then by total number of third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finishes, then by the total number of fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) place finishes, then by total number fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) place finishes.
2. If a tie still exists, then it shall be broken by the highest combined total of team points from performance classes (dressage test classes).
3. If a tie still exists, then it will be broken by using the highest final dressage test score earned by a point rider representing the team in question. If a tie still cannot be determined, then it will be decided by the second highest final dressage test score earned by a point rider representing the team in question, then by the third highest final dressage test score.
4. Before final results are announced or posted, the show steward must be consulted to verify proper procedure was used to break the tie.

#### **D4602 Dressage Test Classes**

**D4602.1** Tied final scores in all dressage test classes during regular and post-season competition will be determined using the following steps:

#### **RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Compare the first two Collective Marks for each rider in the order they are listed on the test sheet;
  - Compare riders' Position scores;
  - If a tie still exists, compare riders' Correct and Effective use of Aids scores;
2. Compare Movement Scores
  - If a tie still exists, compare movement scores (high to low) first by counting the total number of 10s, and then total number of 9s, and then total number of 8s, and then total number of 7s, and then total number of 6s, and then total number of 5s, and then total number of 4s, and then total number of 3s, and then total number of 2s, and the total number of 1s.

**D4602.2** If a tie can not be broken in an individual class, riders will remain tied in points / title / qualifications.

**D4602.3** If a tie can not be broken in a team class, the tie remains and points will be awarded to both riders.

**D4602.4** When a tie cannot be broken, a coin toss will be used to determine who retains what prizes. The winner of the toss receives all prizes for the higher level, and the other rider receives prizes for the next lower level. When riders remain tied, the next placing skips a spot and then resumes. [e.g. tie for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) can't be broken so no one is placed third (3<sup>rd</sup>); the next placing award is fourth (4<sup>th</sup>)]

**D4602.5** Before final results are announced or posted, the show steward must be consulted to verify proper procedure is used to break the tie.

**D4602.6** Dressage Test score reporting sheets must be posted before class placings are announced. Any ties that are broken must be listed in the comment section.

#### **RULE G6000: SHOW STAFF AND OFFICIALS - Refer to G6000 regarding general judging requirements**

##### **D6104 Responsibilities and Qualifications of a Scribe**

**D6104.1** Scribes will sit with the judge and record notes accurately, objectively, and confidentially.

**D6104.2** Scribes for regular season shows may be volunteers including riders and coaches entered in that competition. Riders may not scribe until they have completely finished competing in all phases of competition. Coaches may not scribe until their team has finished competing

**D6104.3** Scribes for post-season shows may not be any of the following: a rider competing or on a team competing, nor a coach of a team entered in that competition, nor an individual affiliated with a team entered in that competition.

**RULE D7000: DRESSAGE JUDGING REQUIREMENTS** - Refer to G7000 regarding general judging requirements

**D7200 Dressage Judging Requirements and Guidelines**

**D7201** In dressage seat equitation classes, only the rider is being judged, therefore, no penalty should be assessed because of the horse's conformation, color, or way of going.

**D7202** Additional testing is not mandatory, but may be requested at the judge's discretion.

**D7203** Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show their horse.

**D7204** Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT necessarily more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them.

**D7205** Riders must be prepared to perform the tests appropriate for the class in which they are participating.

**D7206 Dressage Discipline - Hands and Seat**

**D7206.1** The rider should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the center of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse.

**D7206.2** The rider's heels should be the lowest point.

**D7206.3** The upper part of the rider's body should be tall and supple. Contact with the horse's mouth should be independent from the rider's seat.

**D7206.4** The rider's hands should be carried steadily close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The rider's elbows should be close to the body.

**RULE D8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST-SEASON QUALIFICATION** - refer to Rule G8000 regarding general points, scoring, and post-season qualification

**D8200 Dressage Post-Season Qualification** - refer to Rule G8200 for general qualification rules.

**D8206 Points to Qualify**

**D8206.1** See annual Zone Guidelines and Region Assignments on the IEA website for post-season allotments.

**D8206.2** Dressage teams become ELIGIBLE to qualify for region or zone finals (in zones not split into regions), or national finals (for instances in which a zone final team competition is not needed) by accumulating twenty (20) team points during the regular season.

## **RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D8206.3** Riders become ELIGIBLE to qualify for individual classes at region or zone finals (in areas not split into regions), or national finals (for instances in which a zone final individual competition is not needed) by accumulating a minimum of eighteen (18) fifteen (15) points in that class during the competition year.

**D8206.4** In 2025-26 there will be no region final competitions. Riders advance to zone finals in accordance with the following details:

- Zone finals should have no more than 125 rides per day. Entry limits may be necessary.
- To be ELIGIBLE to qualify to compete at zone finals, individuals must earn a minimum of eighteen (18) points per class and teams must earn a minimum sum of twenty (20) overall team points.
- If entry limits are needed, of those ELIGIBLE only the top twelve (12) individuals per class and top twelve (12) teams will advance to compete at zone finals. The top twelve (12) are determined by the highest total sum of regular season points. Ties for individual and team spots will be determined using Rule D4601.

~~**D8300** Dressage Region Finals – refer to Rule G8300 for general rules.~~

~~**D8302** Region finals will be limited to teams and individuals who have qualified according to Rule G8200.~~

~~**D8303** Region finals will be held at least ten (10) business days before zone finals.~~

~~**D8304** A minimum of six (6) ribbons will be awarded in each class.~~

~~**D8305** In the case of a tie at region finals, Rule D4600 Tie Breaker Rules will be used to determine which teams and individuals advance.~~

~~**D8306** The number of teams and individuals advancing from region finals to zone finals will be defined in the Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines for each zone.~~

**D8400** Dressage Zone Finals - refer to Rule G8400 for general rules.

**D8404** Zone finals will be held at a location designated by the zone administrator. All zone finals will be commenced on a date no later than twenty (20) business days before the date established for the IEA Dressage National Finals. It is mandatory that the zone administrator organize and oversee the zone finals.

**D8405** The top teams and the top individual riders per class at zone finals, as determined by rules G8502 and G8503, (assuming there are zone finals in each of these categories) are invited to compete at national finals.

**D8406** A minimum of eight ribbons will be awarded in each class.

**RULE D4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D8407** In the case of a tie at zone finals, Rule D4600 Tie Breaker Rules will be used to determine which teams and individuals advance.

**D8500** National Finals - refer to Rule G8500 for general rules.

**D8504** Class Specifications - Dressage Team Competition

**D8504.1** There will be no more than twelve (12) teams at national finals.

**D8504.2** Each active zone may send one (1) team to national finals.

**D8504.3** The remaining teams for national finals will be defined in the Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines for each year.

**D8504.4** Qualified teams may enter one (1) rider for each team class offered at national finals.

**D8505** Class Specifications - Dressage Individual Rider Competition

**D8505.1** There will be no more than twelve (12) riders per class at national finals.

**D8505.2** Each active zone may send one (1) rider per class, as listed in rules D3301 and D3302, to national finals.

**D8505.3** The remaining rider positions for national finals will be defined in the Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines for each year.

**D8505.4** Dressage National Leading Rider Award

Presented at national finals to the high point open rider with the greatest total combined points from Class D1i Varsity Open Test and Class D2i Varsity Open DSE. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the higher individual test score in Class D1i. If the test scores are tied, refer to Dressage Rule D4600.