



# OVERVIEW OF EVENTING RULES FOR DRESSAGE JUDGES



**USEA 2023**

Below are some, but not all, variations to the USEF Dressage rules that you may encounter while judging Eventing dressage at national Horse Trials. Please refer to *USEF Rulebook* for further details (ELOC update 5/30/23).

## EQUIPMENT

**Neck Straps made primarily of leather** | Permitted.  
(Subchapter EV-10.2k)

**Saddle Pad Logos** | Permitted; sponsor logos must be 200 sq. cm or less (FEI Article 541.2)

**Spurs** | Optional for all levels. Must be smooth metal, max length of shank 4cm from boot to end of spur and pointed toward rear.  
(Subchapter EV-9.4)

**Noseband tightness** | Rule wording: "may never be so tight as to harm the horse." (Subchapter EV-10.2b(1))

**Dr. Bristol and Wavy bits** (i.e., Happy Mouth with bumps) | Permitted (EV Annex 1)

**Stubben 2500 Freedom bridle** | Permitted. (EV Appendix 4)

**French Link snaffle** | Permitted. (EV Annex 1)

## ATTIRE

**Half Chaps** | Permitted for all levels; black or brown, full grain smooth leather with matching boots. (Subchapter EV-9.5f)

**Jackets** | Optional through Modified, and all levels in a one-day event. Required for Intermediate and Advanced unless waived due to extreme heat. (Subchapter EV-9.10)

**Gloves** | Only required for Intermediate and Advanced. Optional for Preliminary and below, but must be dark, tan, beige or white.  
(Subchapter EV-9.5d)

**Helmets** | Any color, discreet accents permitted, including national flags. (Subchapter EV-9.5a)

**Breeches and Jodphurs** | White or light colored only for eventing dressage. (Subchapter EV-9.5e)

*Dress code violations are penalized by Elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury. (Subchapter 9.9, EV120)*

## EXECUTION OF TEST

### Fall of rider

Not eliminated, but penalized by effect on movement, and in collective mark. If horse leaves ring: Eliminated. (EV-119.2d, EV118.9)

**Boots or bandages in ring or around outside, whips when not allowed, or discrepancy in dress**

Two (2) points in "other errors" column, not cumulative. Must stop and correct, may have assistance. (EV119.2a)

### Entry before bell, or late entry 45-90 seconds

Two (2) points "other errors", not cumulative. (Late entry over 90 seconds = Elimination.) (EV119.2c)

### Learning wrong test

After initial error, ask rider to stay in ring and try to ride correct test. Most riders know both tests of their level. If they have 3 errors, they are scored as a "TE" for Technical Elimination. They are not permitted to leave ring, learn test, and return. (EV118.11)