



DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Qualifying & Championship Rules

OVERVIEW

The National Equestrian Center is pleased to host the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships at the end of the competition year 2021 for qualified schooling show competitors. The program is offered with the following objectives:

- to support personal accomplishments for learning riders and their horses
- to encourage the preparedness of riders and horses working toward participation in rated competition
- to showcase the talents of schooling show riders in St. Louis and the surrounding areas
- to provide an environment of camaraderie and sportsmanship among competitors at all levels

Eligibility Requirements

- The NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships are open to horse/rider pairs who have earned qualifying scores during the qualifying period. No memberships are required for eligibility; however, all horse owners and riders must be “in good standing” with the NEC when these qualifying scores are earned in order for them to count as qualifying scores. “In good standing” is a status assigned to individual trainers, owners and/or riders who are not banned, restricted or otherwise suspended from the National Equestrian Center and who have no outstanding debt or obligation due to the National Equestrian Center or its Licensees (e.g. other event hosts leasing the facility). In addition, any horse whose owner, rider or trainer is not “in good standing” will not be eligible to participate in the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships.
- The qualifying period is **October 17, 2020 to November 14, 2021**.
- Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names (not barn names or nicknames) and with correct owner, rider and trainer information. Riders may qualify and compete with multiple horses, but horses are limited to one rider. Therefore, two riders cannot share one horse. EXCEPTION: AA and JR/YR riders can share a horse if they both qualified but all other rules apply to the rider/horse combination (e.g., horse cannot be shown twice in the same level but must be shown in consecutive levels)
- Having won the title “Level Champion” at NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships two times in a lifetime, a horse/rider combination may no longer compete in NEC Championship competition at that same or lower level (Grand Prix and Grand Prix Musical Freestyles excepted)
- No substitutions of horse or rider will be allowed at the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships.

Qualifying Requirements

To qualify for the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships, horse/rider pairs must

- enter with an official “qualifying test” designation at any NEC Dressage Schooling Show held within the defined qualifying period. The qualifying test must be the *highest test of the level* and the entry must be clearly marked, also called designated, as “qualifying” with all applicable qualifying fees paid in advance of riding the test.

- earn a total of **two qualifying scores** (each score must be the average of all judges officiating) at the same level from two different judges or combination of judges at **two different NEC Dressage Schooling Shows** or at particular Dressage Schooling Shows that have been awarded NEC Championship Qualifier status and held within the defined qualifying period.
- It is NOT required that the horse/rider pair achieve a certain rank in the class (i.e., first, second, etc.), only that the minimum qualifying scores be earned.
- Horse/rider pairs may enter one qualifying test at each level per show; however, more than one qualifying test may be ridden at the same show when entering also a qualifying freestyle or at different levels.
- Once qualifying fees are received by NEC, they will not be refunded to competitors for any reason.
- Separate ribbons or trophies are not awarded for qualifying tests.
- Any and all eligible horse/rider pairs who achieve the minimum qualifying score on a qualifying test will receive one qualifying score toward their two-score requirement to be eligible to enter the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships if all other conditions are met.
- There is no limit for the number of horses on which a rider may qualify.
- Qualification is based on horse/rider pairs. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the championships, he/she must requalify.
- One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all qualifying tests
- Qualifying tests may utilize a reader to call out the test being ridden except at FEI level and in Freestyle classes.
- DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION: DSE classes at the NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships will not be offered for the Open division. JR/YR and AA Riders can qualify for DSE Championship classes in 2 ways:
 - Riders who qualify for the championships at any level above Intro Level automatically qualify to enter the Dressage Seat Equitation Championship class
 - OR riders may qualify by earning two (2) qualifying scores in a DSE class during the qualifying season.

Qualifying Percentages/Scores

QUALIFYING SCORES			
LEVEL	JR/YR	ADULT AMATEUR	OPEN
USDF INTRO	60%	60%	---
USEF TRAINING LEVEL	62%	62%	64%
USEF FIRST LEVEL	62%	62%	64%
USEF SECOND LEVEL	58%	58%	60%
USEF THIRD LEVEL	56%	56%	58%
USEF FOURTH LEVEL	56%	56%	58%
FEI LEVEL (PSG & ABOVE)	54%	54%	56%
USDF FREESTYLE (ALL LEVELS)	62%	62%	62%
FEI FREESTYLE (ALL LEVELS)	58%	58%	58%

WDAA INTRO	60%	60%	---
WDAA BASIC	62%	62%	64%
WDAA LEVEL 1	62%	62%	64%
WDAA LEVEL 2	58%	58%	60%
WDAA LEVEL 3 & ABOVE	56%	56%	58%
USEA TESTS (ALL LEVELS)	40 FAULTS / 60%	40 FAULTS / 60%	38 FAULTS / 62%
DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION	60%	60%	---

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

At the championship, horse/rider pairs will ride one test to determine the championship winner. The test will be the highest test of the level (i.e., Intro C, Training Level Test 3, etc.) except at FEI Level in which horse/rider pairs will ride the test level at which they qualified for Championships (i.e., scores were obtained at Prix St. George, Championship test will be ridden Prix St. George). **Champions and Reserve Champions will be recognized at each level USDF Intro through USEF 4th Level and then at FEI Level; WDAA Intro through Second Level and then WDAA Third Level & above, USDF Musical Freestyle, FEI Musical Freestyle, USEA and Dressage Seat Equitation.** If entries warrant further distinction between USEA levels and DSE divisions, NEC reserves the right to establish those distinctions.

- A horse may only compete in two consecutive levels, (i.e., Training Level and First Level, WD Intro and WD Basic, etc.).
- Horse or rider may not be substituted in a qualified horse/rider pair. Additionally, no horse entered in the Championship may be ridden in warm-up by anyone other than the qualified rider/riders of that horse/rider pair. This applies even after the horse has completed its class EXCEPT when the horse is ridden for cooling-down purposes on a long rein.
- The NEC Dressage Schooling Show Championships will be conducted according to USEF rules. No whips will be permitted. EXCEPTIONS: the gate at "A" will remain open and Test Readers/Callers may be utilized only for classes Intro through Second Level.
- Championships will follow the USEF Rule stating, "A horse may be ridden in no more than 3 classes per day. Exception: a horse may be used in a DSE class as a 4th class for the day".
- Time interval between rides: DR 126.1 (b,5) "In order to facilitate show scheduling considerations, management reserves the right to shorten the time interval between competitor rides for those competitors entering multiple classes or riding multiple horses".
- A Championship title will not be awarded if the first placed winner's score is less than 55%.