HUDSON VALLEY DRESSASGE SHOW SERIES RULES

All HV Dressage Schooling Shows run in accordance with USEF/USDF Dressage Rules.

General Principle and Objective of Riding Dressage

The objective of Dressage is the harmonious development of the athleticism and ability of the horse. Dressage should not only make the horse calm, supple, and balanced, but also confident, attentive, accepting of the bit and show a desire to move forward with impulsion off of the rider's aids all in an effort to achieve a perfect partnership between horse and rider.

Show Rules

- Limit two tests per rider
- Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels at one dressage competition.
- Management reserves the right to combine, divide, or cancel any class.
- Protective headgear must be worn anytime a rider is mounted.
- One whip no longer than 120 cm/47.2" with lash may be carried in all classes except championship classes.
- Spurs are permitted. If rowels are being used, they must freely rotate.
- Bridle numbers must be displayed while competing.
- An English style saddle with stirrups is required at all levels.
- A Western saddle with stirrups is required in all Western Dressage classes.
- No leg protection of any kind is allowed while riding a test (leg protection is allowed in the warm-up areas).

Championship Class Rules

- Championship (Qualifying) Classes are open to Junior / Young Riders and Adult Amateurs only.
- A Qualifying Class is the highest test of the level, except for Introductory level, where it will be Intro Test B (classes are noted on the prize list with an asterix*).
- To qualify for a Championship Class, a horse/rider combination must earn TWO qualifying scores of 57% or higher at TWO participating Hudson Valley Dressage shows.
- Championship class test must be ridden from memory (test reading is not permitted).
- The same qualified rider/horse combination must compete – no substitutions.
- No whips allowed for the Championship classes.
- Only the rider can warm up the horse for the Championship class.

Recommended Dress Code

- If wearing a show coat (optional) it must be worn with a show shirt and stock tie.
- If no jacket is being worn, then rider must wear either a solid white or very pale colored long or short sleeve shirt (but not sleeveless) without a stock tie.
- Conservative color breeches.
- Half chaps are allowed.
- Protective (Inflatable) vests may be worn.

Execution and Test Judging

- Be prepared to enter the ring at your scheduled time or earlier
- If the show is running late, each competitor is responsible to know when they are to ride and remain in close proximity to the ring when their ride time nears.
- Do not enter the arena until the previous competitor is out.
- All tests through 4th Level may be read (with the exception of a Championship class).
- Reader can only read each movement once.
- Rider cannot speak to their reader until they are out of the ring.
- Rider must salute judge by taking both reins in one hand and letting the other arm drop loosely and briefly while inclining the head.
- Use of voice in any way whatsoever, including clucking and / or kissing is a fault and will result in deduction of 2 points at that movement each time it occurs.
- When a rider goes off course, the judge will ring the bell/whistle and designate to the rider where to resume, (the reader may not give direction).
- Intro Level Tests through Fourth Level test errors will be penalized by 2 and 4 points for the first two errors. The third error will result in elimination.
- The judge can, and will, eliminate a competitor for marked lameness. The judge's decision is final.
- Leave the ring at a walk on a loose rein.

Awards

- Ribbons awarded 1st through 6th place in each division: Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur and Open. High Point show awards for Junior & Adult Amateur riders only (excludes Open riders and riders in TOC classes).
- Prize and horse sash awarded to each eligible level and division Champion and Reserve Champion including a lap of honor.

Note: October's Championship Show is also an Open Show.