

New Member Booklet



A Group Member Organization of the USDF.
Members are automatically USDF Group Members.

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dressage!

Also - welcome to the Great Lakes Area Show Series – Educational Dressage organization (GLASS-ED) a Group Member Organization (GMO) of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF). GLASS-ED was created to promote the art and the sport of dressage to young riders, new riders, inexperienced horses, and people just out to have fun with their horse. We concentrate on the positive and make our shows inexpensive, less time-consuming days of fun for all. We were founded in 1993, and grew from only a handful of members and show hosts to our present membership of well over 100 and 11 show hosts.

Just a few of our membership perks include...



A copy of the annual GLASS-ED omnibus containing all of the latest rules, updates and pertinent show information!



A subscription to the Equine Times! The local horse newspaper that prints all of our scores and show placing!



A subscription to the USDF Connection! A dressage magazine containing tons of great articles and tips for you, your horse, and so much more



Reduced rates for GLASS-ED and USDF clinics! This year our spring 2008 Clinic is FREE to audit and offered at a greatly reduced rate to ride to all members!



The opportunity to compete for great year-end awards. We offer champion and reserve ribbons along with cool trophies and saddle pads for breed awards, certificates of achievement to recognize accomplished riders, and the Classic Saddlery Perpetual Trophy and gift certificate drawing!

We realize you are already a member and eligible for these fantastic benefits, but do you know anyone else who might be interested or benefit from all that we have to offer! Let them know about GLASS-ED so that they can join in the fun too!



What does “Dressage” mean?

Dressage is a French term meaning “training”. It describes the gradual and harmonious development in both body and mind of the horse and rider. The goal of dressage is to develop a horse’s flexibility, responsiveness to aids, and balance. The process of dressage development allows the horse to become stronger, calmer, more supple, looser, more flexible, and increase confidence and attentiveness. Ultimately, these steps make riding more enjoyable for all.

GLASS-ED Mission Statement

The Great Lakes Area Show Series-Educational Dressage, Inc. (GLASS-ED) is a non-profit corporation, dedicated to the promotion and encouragement of the sport of Dressage. GLASS-ED is open to all enthusiasts of Dressage, all breeds of horses, all riding levels, professional or amateur, so as to encourage the progressive training of the horse and the rider that defines dressage. Our emphasis is to provide an enjoyable, safe, educational, competitive dressage experience for both new and experienced horse/rider teams creating and encouraging a positive environment for competitive excellence in the future.

Toward this end, GLASS-ED will organize and sanction dressage competitions in the State of Michigan, with certification of compliance to USDF/USEA rules, except as modified by GLASS-ED, including appropriate records reflecting the same.

GLASS-ED will provide to its members information and educational opportunities in dressage, including clinics or other media. GLASS-ED will coordinate and provide instruction to conduct dressage competitions. GLASS-ED will assist with the establishment of dressage opportunities in the State of Michigan.

Membership – Year End Awards

One of the benefits of a membership with GLASS-ED is the opportunity to be eligible for Certificates of Achievement and compete for Year-End Awards. Certificates of Achievement are awarded to riders who have competed in a level, in at least three different GLASS-ED shows. The score accumulation begins at the first GLASS-ED show of the season at which the member is registered and ends at the last show of the GLASS-ED show season.

Bronze Certificate:

Awarded when a rider has received seven (7) scores of 50% or better.

Silver Certificate:

Awarded when a rider has received five (5) scores of 60% or better.

Gold Certificate:

Awarded when a rider has received three (3) scores of 70% or better.



With the registration of your horse, you may select an appropriate year-end award category or categories. Please refer to our rules listed on the next few pages to assist you in understanding the division more in depth. If you are planning to advance from Walk-Trot to Training Level or from Training Level to First Level at some point during the show season you may select both of those year-end award categories when submitting your year-end awards application. Or, you may select the category you will start the season competing and then part way through the competition year, prior to the show in which you advance to the next level, submit the year-end awards application and fee for that level.

GLASS-ED offers the following competitive categories for year-end awards!



Introduction to Dressage (ITD)

- Introduction to Dressage 1st Year Junior Rider
- Introduction to Dressage 1st Year Senior Rider
- Introduction to Dressage Open Rider
- Introduction to Dressage 1st Year Horse



Training Level

- Training Level Novice Junior Rider
- Training Level Novice Senior Rider
- Training Level Open Rider
- Training Level Novice Horse



First Level

- First Level Intermediate Rider
- First Level Open Rider



Second Level, Third Level & Above

- Second Level Open Rider
- Third Level and Above Open Rider



Musical, Equitation, & Quadrille

- Anything Goes Quadrille
- Anything Goes Pas de Deux
- Open Musical Freestyle (All Levels)
- Anything Goes Musical Freestyle
- Walk-Trot Equitation
- Dressage Equitation



The following are some descriptions for the above categories and also some common scenarios for year-end award division selections and also the competitive classes that the year-end awards coincide with:

Please note that you may select more than one year-end award category at the same level or different levels if you or your horse meet the appropriate requirements!

Introduction to Dressage – Junior 1st Year Rider

This is your first year of showing dressage and you are 18 years of age or under. You may select the ITD Junior 1st Year Rider category and you may show all classes that are offered in the ITD 1st Year Rider division. Applicable dressage tests are USDF Test A, USDF Test B, GLASS-ED walk-trot 1, GLASS-ED walk-trot 2. When completing the show entry form these classes are the ITD 1st Year Rider classes, numbers 1 - 4.

Introduction to Dressage – Senior 1st Year Rider

This is your first year of showing dressage and you are 18 years of age or older. You may select the ITD Senior 1st Year Rider category and you may show all classes that are offered for ITD 1st Year Rider division. Applicable dressage tests are USDF Test A, USDF Test B, GLASS-

ED walk-trot 1, GLASS-ED walk-trot 2. When completing the show entry form these classes are the ITD 1st Year Rider classes, numbers 1 - 4.

Introduction to Dressage – 1st Year Horse

You may select this category if this is your horse's first year showing dressage. Applicable dressage tests are USDF Test A, USDF Test B, GLASS-ED walk-trot 1, GLASS-ED walk-trot 2. For competition, ITD 1st year horses will ride in the ITD Open classes, unless enough entries warrant the division to be split appropriately. When completing the show entry form these classes are the ITD Open classes, numbers 5 - 8.

Introduction to Dressage – Open

This is not your first year of showing dressage, but you do not wish to enter a division requiring canter. You may be introducing a new horse to the world of dressage or you may prefer not to canter for whatever reason. Applicable dressage tests are USDF Test A, USDF Test B, GLASS-ED walk-trot 1, GLASS-ED walk-trot 2. When completing the show entry form these classes are the ITD Open classes, numbers 5 - 8.

Training Level – Novice Horse

You may have shown previously in walk-trot classes and now are ready to canter and show at Training Level. Or, this may also be your horse's initial years showing dressage, but you are ready to canter. The Novice Horse division is open to horses for their first two years of showing at Training Level (not counting ITD) and who have not earned six (6) scores of 60% or higher previously at Training Level. Applicable dressage tests are Training Level Tests 1, 2, 3, & 4. When completing the show entry form these classes are the Training Level Novice Horse classes, numbers 54 - 57.

Most often shows will not offer separate classes for junior riders and senior riders at the shows. However, junior and senior riders are split for the GLASS-ED year-end awards.

Training Level – Junior Novice Rider

This is similar to Novice Horse, however, the eligibility criteria is based on the junior rider, 18 years of age and under. The Novice Rider division is open to riders for their first two years showing at Training Level (not counting ITD) and who have not earned six (6) scores of 60% or higher at previously Training Level. Applicable dressage tests are Training Level 1, 2, 3 & 4. When completing the show entry form, these classes are the Training Level Novice Rider classes, numbers 50 - 53.

Training Level – Senior Novice Rider

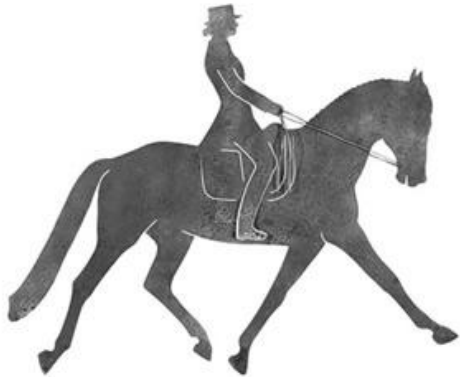
This category is exactly the same as Junior Novice Rider, however, this category is for riders above the age of 18 years of age and older. When completing the show entry form these classes are also the Training Level Novice Rider classes, numbers 50 - 53.

Training Level – Open

This class is open to anyone and any horse regardless of how many years of showing or levels of competition experience. It is open to senior, junior, professional or amateur riders. There is no time frame eligibility limitation. Applicable dressage tests are Training Level Tests 1, 2, 3 & 4. For the show entry form, the Training Level Open class numbers are 58 - 61.

First Level – Intermediate

First Level Intermediate category is open to riders for their first two years of showing First Level. Typically, only First Level Open is offered at shows and Intermediate riders will compete against the open riders in competition. However, points accumulated throughout the season will be counted for the Intermediate category for the purpose of year-end awards. Applicable dressage tests are First Level Tests 1, 2, 3, & 4. When completing the show entry form these are generally the First Level Open classes, numbers 104 - 107. If a show offers the First Level division to be split, then these will be class numbers 100 - 103.



First Level – Open

First Level – Open is open to anyone and any horse regardless of competition experience. There is no time frame eligibility limitation. It is open to senior, junior, professional, or amateur riders. Applicable dressage tests are First Level Tests 1, 2, 3, & 4. When completing the show entry form these are the First Level Open classes, numbers 104 - 107.

Second Level, Third Level, Fourth Level, & FEI Levels

For specific rules and division/ test requirements for higher Levels, please reference your GLASS-ED omnibus. The higher levels are generally only offered in competition as an Open Division and if the desired level or test is not offered at a show, higher level riders are welcome to compete in the High Percentage classes offered at every show.

GLASS-ED also offers some “fun” year-end award categories!

Open Musical Freestyle

The Musical Freestyle is a freestyle ride set to music. This class can be designed and choreographed for any level. This freestyle does have required movements! Please refer to the “Required Movements for Freestyles” section in the Omnibus. For shows that offer this class, enter class number 600. On the show entry, please be sure to indicate the level of your musical freestyle.

Anything Goes Musical Freestyle

This freestyle, with costume required (costume is 10% of score) is quite literally like the name sounds – anything goes! This class can be designed for any level, with the added excitement of costumes for you and your horse. Riders and horses are allowed to perform movements above their level of showing. This class does not have any required movements and the level is not stated on the show entry form. For shows offering this class, the number is 603.

Anything Goes Quadrille

For the Quadrille, simply designate a team name and then include a minimum of four riders and horses and work out a freestyle ride to music with the entire team in the arena at the same time. New riders and horses may be added throughout the show season. The Quadrille class offered at GLASS-ED sanctioned shows is an Anything Goes. This means there are no specified required movements. For shows that offer this class, the number is 601.

Anything Goes Pas de Deux

For the Pas de Deux, designate a team name and then include a minimum of two riders and horses and work out a freestyle ride to music. New riders and horses may be added throughout the show season. The Pas de Deux class offered at GLASS-ED sanctioned shows is an Anything Goes. This means there are no specified required movements. For shows that offer this class, the number is 60 .

Walk-Trot Equitation

The Walk-Trot Equitation is a group class for only ITD 1st Year Riders. This class is judged on the rider's position and effectiveness of aids at walk and trot. One of the benefits of this class is that there is no memorizing of the test. The judge will instruct you which direction to ride and prompt you for transitions and movements. The class number for showing offering this class is 703.

Dressage Equitation

The Dressage Equitation is a walk/trot/canter class open to all riders. Similar to the Walk-Trot equitation, this class is judged on the rider's position and effectiveness of aids. The Class number is 702, when this class is offered.

High Percentage Class

One class that all shows are required to offer is the High Percentage class. This class does not offer its own year-end award, but points earned in this class do count towards Breed Awards, Certificates of Achievement, and year-end points for riders riding at Second Level or higher. A show host will either offer one High Percentage Class, (class number 502), or they may offer a morning High Percentage Class (class number 500), and an afternoon High Percentage Class (class number 501). Any rider and horse may enter the High Percentage Class. Please remember to indicate the level and test number intended to be ridden on the show entry form.

Everything Else!

Many show hosts will offer various classes for which GLASS-ED does not offer year-end awards. All are just for fun and there are ribbons for 1st through 6th place. Some examples of these classes are:



Prix Caprilli

A Prix Caprilli walk-trot class and a Prix Caprilli walk-trot-canter class may be offered. These are dressage tests with a few jumps added to change things up a little. Riders may enter whatever class is appropriate for their level. The Prix Caprilli tests are available on our web site, www.glass-ed.org. The class number for the Prix Caprilli are 800 and 801.

Bareback

Shows may offer bareback classes. There will be specific instructions and rules on the show host's show bill for this class, if offered. The class number is 802.

Ride a Buck

This is another for fun class some shows may offer. This class will also have specific instructions and rules on the show's show bill page. The class number will be stated on the show bill for the specific show.

USEA Eventing Tests

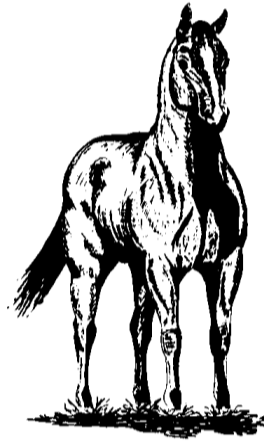
Some of the shows also offer USEA (United States Eventing Association) Dressage Test classes. These classes will have specific instructions and rules on the show's show bill page. The class number will be stated on the show bill for the specific show.

Please reference the attachment for samples of properly completed show entry forms!

Breed Year End Award Categories

While as many test levels, division, or equitation categories as are appropriate may be selected, only one breed award category may be selected. All horses will qualify for one of the following categories. A copy of registration is required for all breed categories except pony and unregistered.

-  Arab or ½ Arabs
-  AQHA or Appendix
-  Thoroughbreds
-  Warmbloods
-  Color
-  Other Registered
-  Pony (14-2 & under)
-  Unregistered



If you register for a breed award category, as you ride and accumulate points in the Walk-Trot, Training Level or First Level classes, those same points accumulate for your breed award category selected.

GLASS-ED Year-End Awards Point Accumulation System

Placing	Number of Riders in the Class					
	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	7 – 10	11 – 15	16 - 20
1 st	3	5	7	8	9	10
2 nd	1	3	5	6	7	8
3 rd	-	2	4	5	6	7
4 th	-	1	3	4	5	6
5 th	-	-	2	3	4	5
6 th	-	-	1	2	3	4

The GLASS-ED Point Keeper calculates your points and keeps totals up to date. Point accumulation will be posted www.glass-ed.org. You may also keep track of your points by using the point system chart. Point accumulation begins with the first show after you have submitted your form and fees and continues to the last show of the season.

Rules of the Organization

Before entering any show in the GLASS-ED show circuit it is important to understand all the rules pertaining to the organization and showing. All GLASS-ED rules are in the Omnibus and also online at www.glass-ed.org. All USDF/USEF rules are online at www.usef.org (please reference the Dressage subsection). GLASS-ED rules are typically the same as USDF/USEF rules. Where GLASS-ED is silent, then USDF/USEF rules prevail. Whenever there is an exception to USDF/USEF rules, it is specified. Some examples of rule variations are that GLASS-ED allows more than three tests to be ridden in any one day of competition. Or that GLASS-ED requires riders to wear an ASTM approved helmet at all times while mounted.

Please read all the rules prior to your first show. Reading the rules may prevent unnecessary confusion and possible elimination from competition, while at the same time providing a smooth uneventful day. Also, if you find anything at all confusing please do not hesitate to contact any board member regarding rules and rule application. All board member addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are in the Omnibus and online at www.glass-ed.org

Competitive Turn Out

Braiding

Competitive dressage is descended from royal presentations in Europe and is a very conservative and formal equine sport. While it is not mandatory, it is traditional for horses to have their manes braided. Braids can vary from small pencil size turned under braids to diagonal weaves that are breed appropriate. The forelock may be braided or left unbraided. The tail is usually not braided. With horses that are prone to kicking out, it is appropriate to braid or attach a red ribbon/bow to the tail to forewarn other competitors. The tail should be clean, brushed, and should usually be trimmed around fetlock level. The dock of the tail may be thinned or trimmed to give a clean appearance and accent the horse's hindquarter musculing.

Rider Attire

For the rider, the dress code for ITD through Fourth Level is a short riding coat of conservative color with tie, choker, or stock tie. Breeches or jodhpurs are acceptable and riders should wear appropriate boots or jodhpur boots. Typically, in GLASS-ED, the coat is black or any dark color, the shirt is white or light colored and may be short or long sleeved. The breeches or jodhpurs are also white or light in color. The boots may be tall dress boots or field boots or also acceptable for GLASS-ED sanctioned shows, paddock boots with half chaps of conservative color are allowed.

In cases of extreme heat, show management will allow competitors to show without jackets. If the jacket requirement is removed, the choker or stock tie may also be removed. If jackets are waived, sleeveless shirts or tank tops are not acceptable. When showing during the heat of summer, be aware the jacket requirement may be removed, and bring along a short or long sleeved, white or light colored dressage shirt.

In order to continue the neat-looking appearance long hair should be worn up and in a hair net or pony tailed and contained in a show bow. GLASS-ED adheres to a strict helmet rule. A rider on any horse entered in a GLASS-ED sanctioned show or event must wear a securely fastened ASTM approved helmet. If a rider refuses to either don a helmet or dismount, the rider is banned from competition that day and any points and placings will be disqualified.

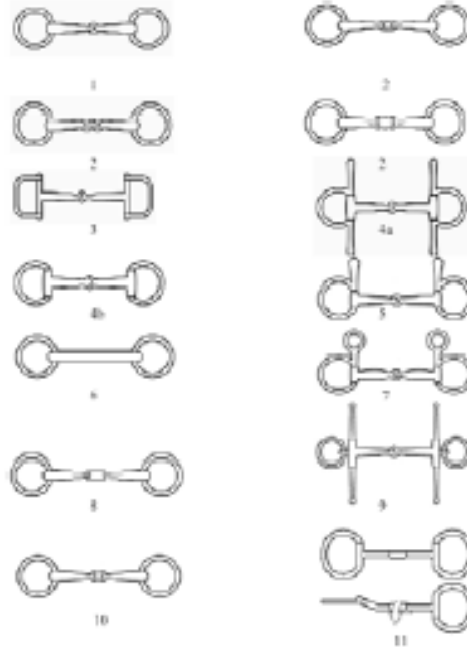
Horse Tack

Either a dressage saddle or any English style saddle (i.e. jumping, close contact, etc.) may be used at GLASS-ED sanctioned shows. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted.

A plain snaffle bridle is required below Fourth Level with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, or a crossed noseband. Please refer below for allowable bits or go online to www.usef.org (subsection Dressage). Basically, all bits must be smooth and have a solid surface. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited. A bushing or cupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited. Bits must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber. The diameter of the snaffle must be minimum 3/8 inch diameter at rings of the mouthpiece for horses (ponies may be less than 3/8 inches).

Martingales, running or standing, are prohibited in dressage competition. Other training devices (i.e. draw reins) or attachments may be prohibited. For a complete listing of acceptable and unacceptable equipment, please go online to www.usef.org (subsection Dressage).

A. PERMITTED SNAFFLES* (Must be used in Training-Second Level Tests. Optional in Third and Fourth Level Tests.)



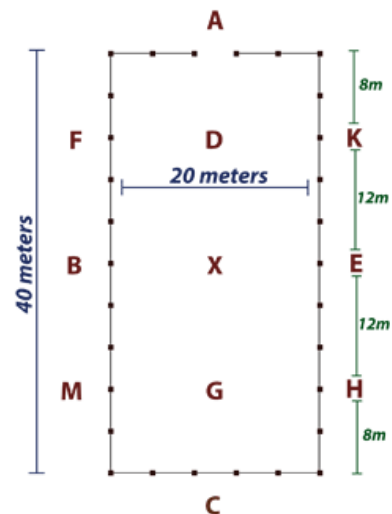
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece. | 7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6. |
| 2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece. | 8. Dr. Bristol. |
| 3. Racing snaffle (D-ring). | 9. Fulmer. |
| 4. Snaffle. A) with cheeks, with or without keepers.
B) without cheeks (Egg-butt). | 10. French snaffle. |
| 5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks. | 11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece. |
| 6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen-mouth). | |

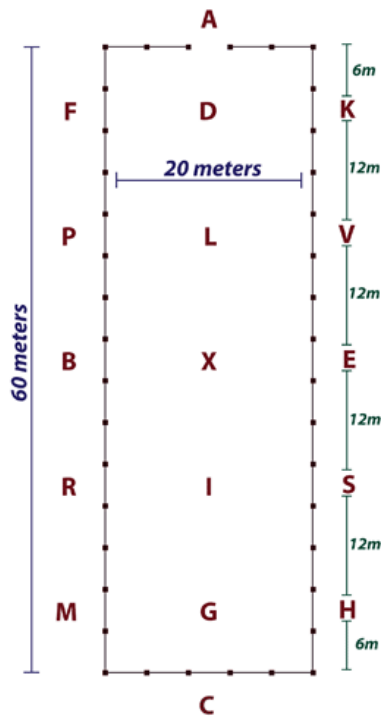
*Any of the above may be made with a rubber, plastic or leather covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured above. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.

The Competition Arena

Small Arena

The small arena is 20 meters by 40 meters (65.6 x 131.2 feet). The letters around the outside edge, starting from point of entry A, and tracking left are K, E, H, C, M, B, and F. On the centerline the letters are with A; D midway between K and F; X midway between E and B; and G midway between H and M. The small arena is may be used for all the Introductory to Dressage (walk/trot) tests, Training Level tests, First Level Test 1 (only), and the Quadrilles.





Standard Arena or Large Arena

The standard arena is 20 meters by 60 meters (65.6 x 196.8 feet). The letters around the outside edge, beginning with entry at A and tracking left are K, V, E, S, H, C, M, R, B, P, and F. The letters down the centerline are A; D midway between K and F; L midway between V and P; X midway between E and B; I midway between S and R; and G midway between H and M. Typically the standard arena is used for First Level tests and above, however any level test may be ridden in a standard arena. Riders competing in the high percentage classes may be in a standard arena.

The letters around the perimeter of the each size arena are displayed on markers of various styles. Typically, they are displayed on a white background with letters in black. There is only one way in and out of either size dressage arena at a show, the opening at A. The position of the letters should be memorized, as well as the dimension and distances between the letters for each arena so you can ride accurate figures and tests.

Elements of Test

Before riding any test in a dressage competition, it is important to understand the key elements of the test you are riding. Each level described in this pamphlet contains a series of four tests with required movements and patterns the horse and rider combination must perform. The elements of the test are comprised of movements that will demonstrate the level of training for you and your horse. Each level and each test within a level builds on the previous tests and guides a horse and rider through increasingly complex levels of training. Since this pamphlet is geared towards new members, particularly those also new to dressage, the purpose of each level will only be described to First Level, for levels higher than First Level, please reference the GLASS-ED omnibus.

Introduction to Dressage

Introductory Level is also known as Introduction to Dressage (ITD) or the walk/trot classes, meaning that there is no cantering. All GLASS-ED sanctioned shows offer four walk/trot tests: USDF Test A, USDF Test B, GLASS-ED Test 1, and, GLASS-ED Test 2.

The key elements of the introductory level are: medium walk, free walk, working trot rising, 20-meter trot circles, and halt through medium walk. Generally all walk/trot tests are held in the small arena, however large arenas may be used at the show host's discretion.

The instructions, comments, and purpose sections located on every dressage test is also something you should familiarize yourself with because it displays the ideals the rider should be seeking within each test.

Training Level

This level and all that follow require walk, trot and canter. All GLASS-ED sanctioned shows offer Training Level Tests 1, 2, 3, & 4.

The key elements in Training Level are: medium walk, free walk, working trot (sitting and rising), 20-meter circles in trot and canter, trot-canter and canter-trot transitions between letters or at a letter, halts through walk are permitted, 20-meter stretching circle at the trot, and one-loop serpentine in trot. Training level tests may be held in either the small or standard arena.



The instructions & purpose sections located on every dressage test is also something you should familiarize yourself with because it displays the ideals the rider should be seeking within each test.

First Level

This level requires walk, tort, canter, and begins to ask the rider for lateral movements and lengthenings. All GLASS-ED sanctioned shows offer First Level Tests 1, 2, 3, & 4.

The key elements in First Level are: medium walk, free walk, working trot, trot lengthenings, working trot sitting, halts from trot, 10-meter half-circles and full circles in trot, three-loop serpentine in trot, 15-meter canter circles, trot leg-yields, canter lengthenings, 5-second halt, change of canter lead through the trot, and one-loop canter serpentine, maintaining the same lead (counter canter). Only First Level Test 1 may be held in the small arena, however, typically all First Level tests are held in the standard arena.

The instructions & purpose sections located on every dressage test is also something you should familiarize yourself with because it displays the ideals the rider should be seeking within each test.

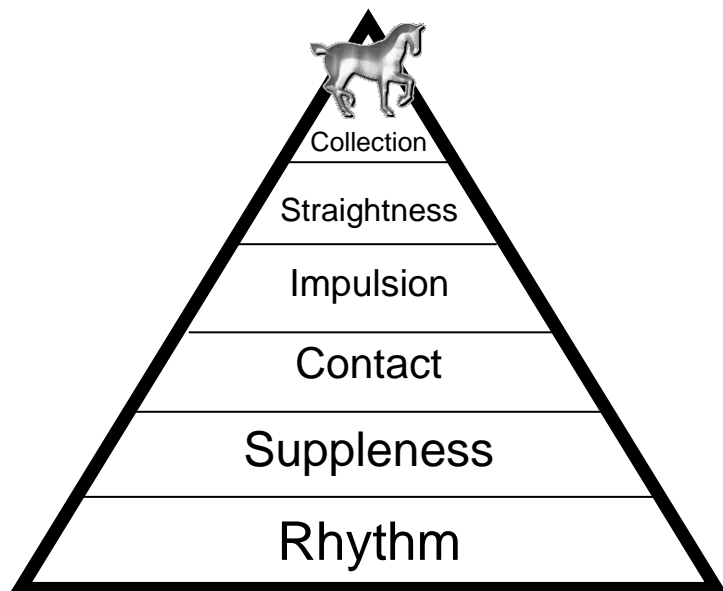
Training Pyramid

Typically, dressage riders tend to categorize their skills in terms of these levels: Walk/Trot, Training Level, and First Level. However, there is another tool to use that describes the gradual stepping scale of qualities in dressage training. It is called the Dressage Training Scale or Pyramid. The Training Scale or Pyramid of Training was developed by the German cavalry and is still used by the German National Equestrian Federation today.

The training scale is used by the USDF in its educational programs and utilized by many Dressage enthusiasts. The training scale was developed by the German cavalry and written in its modern form in 1912. The dressage tests are written using the training scale as a reference to ensure the tests are appropriate for the horses at their various stages of training. The terms used in the training scale describe qualities, not competition levels or movements.

Rhythm! The base level on the pyramid is rhythm, combined with regularity, and it is considered the foundation for all dressage training. Each of the horse's gaits has distinct rhythms or tempo. The first goal of dressage training is to develop horse's rhythm and maintaining a rhythmic regularity throughout all further work.

Suppleness! Also dubbed “relaxation” by some, is the freedom of a horse to be relaxed and thus utilize their muscles to the fullest degree. When a horse becomes worried, confused, afraid, or uncomfortable, they will tense their muscles and possibly make the strides short, choppy, and/or irregular. A tense horse generally is physically and mentally unable to do what is needed of him.



Contact! Contact can be thought of as the connection between the horse’s mouth and the rider’s hands. However, it is the horse who takes the contact, not the rider. The horse must seek the contact by reaching forward and downward with this head and neck while the rider maintains a firm yet relaxed hand with a steady, soft, elastic contact with the reins.

Impulsion! This is the pushing power or thrust coming from the horse’s hindquarters with the power coming up and thru the horse’s body. The horse’s hindquarters are the engine for all impulsion. The hind legs push

more strongly off the ground and then reach energetically forward and upward beneath his body as he strides forward.

Straightness! In dressage straightness refers to the axis of the horse’s spine. Ideally the poll, spine and tail should fall into a natural alignment. A horse can also be straight on a curved line, such a circle or a corner providing the arc of the curved line is consistent thru the horse’s body. Commonly, the outside shoulder will “pop” out or the haunches may swing in or out causing the line to become broken.

Collection! Collection is a state of total balance. The horse’s weight is shifted off the forehead and onto to the hindquarters which have by now, developed carrying power. The joints of the hind legs bend to a greater degree while stepping further under the horse for support. The horse looks and feels as if he is traveling uphill. Because of his un-weighted forelegs, a collected horse can move with greater dynamic freedom through his shoulders.

The Final Product of Training

As the horse and rider work their way up the training scale a great degree of finesse and ability is gradually developed over time. All of the steps within the training scale levels are intertwined and dismissing a lower step to achieve a higher step can result in problems. The steps of the pyramid cannot function in isolation because each level builds on what has come before. For example contact without suppleness can result in a stiffening of the neck and a disengagement of the hindquarters, which will be needed to further the impulsion.

Judging

Judges

At all GLASS-ED shows there will be at least one judge and scribe. The judge and scribe will sit behind the letter C. This position



D

allows the best view of the entire arena and the centerline. Having a scribe to write down the scoring and judge's comments allows the judge to totally concentrate on your test.

GLASS-ED requires that the individual judging the dressage tests will have maintained their L graduate certification or higher judging degree. The L denotes an accomplishment of the initial step of judges training required in Dressage. The graduates have achieved a satisfactory riding skill at Second Level or higher along with attending judging clinics and passing an extensive examination process.

Scoring

Each movement on the test is worth a maximum 10 points. The score given by a judge indicate how well that movement was performed based upon the ideal desired. Scores are not based on a comparison between one rider and another, but on a comparison between the movement performed and the ideal for the movement performed.

The scores for each dressage movement are as follows:

- 10 = Excellent.
- 9 = Very Good
- 8 = Good
- 7 = Fairly Good
- 6 = Satisfactory
- 5 = Sufficient
- 4 = Insufficient
- 3 = Fairly Bad
- 2 = Bad
- 1 = Very Bad
- 0 = Not Executed

A few of the movements contain coefficients of 2. This means the score that you receive for the movement is multiplied by 2.

Collective Marks

The collective marks section which are based on the entire wholeness of the test are located below the movement section and are also scored on a coefficient of 2, except the Rider's Position. Please note, new for 2007, the rider position has a coefficient of 3. The collective marks section looks at the following items:



Gaits



Impulsion



Submission



Rider

The specific requirements for each of these collective marks vary slightly depending upon the level ridden and the skills required within that particular level.

Further Remarks

Quite often the judge will write additional comments at the bottom of the test. These can be used to discuss with your trainer, improve on something for the rest of your tests that day, and give you something to work on prior your next show.

Elimination

A judge may eliminate a rider if: there is use of illegal equipment; three errors are committed during the test; late entry into the arena; all four feet of the horse leave the arena with or without rider; cruelty; marked lameness; resistance of longer than 20 seconds; and/or concern for the safety of the rider, or other exhibitors.

Posting Scores & Placings

Once the class is complete, meaning the last rider in the class is finished. The show secretary or assistant will collect the tests from the judge, calculate the overall scores, and then determine placing. The total points earned are divided by the total possible points for an overall percentage score. Placings are determined by the percentage score. If there is a tie, either the show secretary will break by the tie by reviewing the scores received in the collective marks (highest total in collective area), or the test will be returned to the judge and the judge will break the tie. The winner of the tie is noted by a plus sign.

The test will be ready to be picked up a little while after the last rider rides their test and the class is completed. There will generally be an area located near the office where all completed tests and ribbons will be set out. There will also be a scoreboard where the entire class and division scoring can be viewed.

Understanding the Remarks

When reviewing your test you will find the dressage world has a set of abbreviations. Some comments are easy to decipher, however, others are confusing and require some thought. If you are absolutely baffled by something written on your test or confused with how to get something the judge would like to see improvement upon, e-mail your questions into our "Ask the Judge" and "Ask the Trainer" advice columns online at www.glass-ed.org

The following are some common abbreviations found on tests, but the list is endless...

ABBREVIATION(S)	DEFINITION	ABBREVIATION(S)	DEFINITION
abr	abrupt	inw	inward
acc	accurate	irreg	irregular
@	at	lk imp	lacks impulsion
ang	angle	lg	large
bk	back	lat	lateral
bt	beat	ld	lead
b/f, b4	before	L	left
b/h, beh	behind	let	letter
bnd	bend	med	medium
bet	better	not □	not square
bet, b/n, btw	between	obv	obvious
cad	cadence	ord	ordinary
cant, ctr	canter	outs	outside
C-ln, c-line, CL	center line	outw	outward
O	circle	pos	position
col	collection	pos, pst	posting
cor, cnr	corner	prec	precise
crkd, crook	crooked	reg	regular
dpt	depart	res	resistant
diag	diagonal	R	right
dir	direction	rhy, rthm	rhythm
disob	disobedience	sal	salute
↓	down	sm	small
eng	engagement	str	straight

ext	extension	□	square
flex	flexion	swg	swing
f/hand, 4hand	forehand	thru	through
frwd, fwd	forward	trans	transition
gd	good	tr, trt	trot
ht, hlt	halt	trn ha, tu haun	turn on haunches
hn	haunches	tu for, trn 4hand	turn on forehand
hn-in, hn←	haunches in	unstd	unsteady
Hn-out, hn→	haunches out	↑	up
hd tilt	head tilted	vert	vertical
H1/4	hindquarter	v, vr	very
hur	hurried	wv	weaving
imb, immob	immobile	w/	with
imp	impulsion	wr	wrong
inattn	inattentive		
incomp	incomplete		
ins	inside		

Common Dressage Related Terminology

Impulsion: Thrust or a release of the energy from the coiled springs of engaged hindquarters. Impulsion refers to the urge to move forward that a rider creates in a horse that is fully under control. The intention is not to speed up the horse but for its hindquarters to exhibit a lively urge to move forward.

On the Bit: Accepting and seeking a steady contact with the bit. When a horse is on the bit it means that its neck muscles are relaxed and its neck rounds. It happily takes the bit with a light pressure on the reins.

Thoroughness: When a horse is working through it means that it is constantly on the bit, relaxed and is moving its hind quarters correctly.

Extension: The horse lengthens his stride while remaining in balance and contact.

Collection: A state in which the horse's energy is gathered in his body, like a coiled spring. The outward appearance of the horse appears shorter from poll to tail. Strides become more expressive while at the same time cover less ground. The energy is directed up as well as forward.

Over Tracking: When a horse places the hind hoof print in front of the hoof print from the front hoof.

Transition: Change in gait or a change in tempo within a gait.

Half Halt: A momentary rebalancing of the horse or in preparation for a gait or tempo.



Bending: Muscles along the inside of the body contract while those on the outside stretch. The outline appears to conform to the shape of an arc. The inside rein does not pull the horse in the desired direction; it lightly flexes the horse's poll laterally in the direction of bend, so that his head and neck are aligned with the rest of the body.

Hollow: Inverted, with the horse's neck raised, his back dropped, and his haunches elevated. Opposite of round.

Round: Convex topline of the horse's entire body.

Above the bit: The head position in which the horse's nose is up and out

Behind the Bit: The horse's attempt to avoid the bit and moving forward by sucking back away from contact

Showing Etiquette

Each rider is assigned a ride time – BE ON TIME! Timeliness is important to keep the show moving and more importantly, if you are not on time your test will be marked as a "No Show" and you may not be allowed to ride that test. Ride times are scheduled based on how long it takes to ride each test. You may be allowed to ride earlier if there have been scratches or no shows previous to your ride time. If you and your horse are ready, and would like to ride earlier, you may. If you, or your horse, are not ready you are not required to ride earlier than your scheduled time. At the same, it is not proper for you to ask to ride earlier or later because the ride times given do not suit your schedule.

You may ride around the outside of the ring when the rider before you has completed their test with a salute. This time may be used to introduce the horse to the judge's booth and any decorations such as flowers or other ornaments placed around the ring. Also, this time is used to greet the judge and tell the scribe your number, or pass the judge's booth so that the scribe can see your horse's number.

The judge will ring a bell or whistle and then you will have 45 seconds to enter the ring. From where ever you are outside the arena you should have ample time, at a trot, to get to A and enter the arena within the time frame.

If you have not memorized your test, you are allowed a reader. However, it is important to memorize the test in case a reader misses a movement or a distracting noise drowns out the reader so you can't hear. If a reader is used they may stand near E or B outside of the arena. The reader can only read the directives exactly as written and readers should only read the movement out loud once, without directive repetition.

Voice commands from the rider are not allowed during the test. There may be penalties if the judge hears voice commands, which does include clucking, chirping, whoa. If you go off course, allow the judge to instruct you where to begin the test again. You will be given a two-point penalty for the first error, four for the second, and eight for the third and last error allowed during a test. After three errors you are disqualified.

When you salute the judge at the beginning and end of the test, it is important to wait for the judge to acknowledge you before you proceed. Do not dawdle when exiting the ring after a test, however it is appropriate to walk towards the judge's booth and track left or right at C, before heading out of the arena at A. You should leave the arena, if possible, as instructed on the tests which is generally "free walk on a loose rein".

Etiquette in the warm up arena or area.

The warm-up arena is sometimes a very confusing area with many horses working at different levels, in different directions, attempting to prepare horses to enter the show ring. For the safety of yourself and everyone around you, here are some helpful tips to avoid warm-up crashes!



When moving in opposite directions riders should pass left shoulder to left shoulder and always be generous with right of way.



Riders at slower gaits should ride on the inside tract. Riders cantering should stay on the outside tract. Lateral movements, shoulder and haunches-in, leg yield have the right of way



Mount prior to entering the warm up area or in a corner of the warm-up arena.



No lunging is allowed in a warm up arena or area. The show host should have separate lunging areas available.



Keep a minimum horse length between each horse. If you know your horse kicks, place a red ribbon on his tail. Please remember to remove the ribbon prior to your test.



Keep your eyes up and pay attention and know where you are going and where others are going. If you see a rider coming into you track, you may say "heads-up" to remind the other rider you are there.

MOST IMPORTANTLY!

HAVE FUN! Dressage is a wonderful sport that allows you to grow and develop with your horse for a lifetime of enjoyment. Please remember if you have any questions regarding rules or show procedures, feel free to call or e-mail a GLASS-ED Board member, contact information can be found in your omnibus or online at www.glass-ed.org. Also if you have any questions the day of the show, there are people everywhere to assist you in having a positive competitive experience: show hosts, show secretaries, technical ambassadors, etc.

Again...

Welcome to GLASS-ED!

We look forward to seeing you at the shows the season!

Special thanks to the following sites which assisted us in achieving this new member handbook!

Purdue University/Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Project

www.about.horses.com

www.wikipedia.com

www.petpeoplesplace.com

USEF Rules (Dressage)

GLASS-ED Rules

USDF Guide to Dressage

**All rules, show bills, showing forms, etc can be found in your
2007 GLASS-ED omnibus or online at www.glass-ed.org**

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