



**RULES FOR THE FEI WORLD CUP DRESSAGE**  
**SEASON ~~2016~~2017-1718**  
Approved 19.11.2016

**PREAMBLE**

These rules set forth the detailed rules of the FEI World Cup™ Dressage, which are to read in conjunction with the pertinent Statutes, General Regulations, Rules for Dressage Events and Veterinary Regulations. It is acknowledged that every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules and in any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances it is the duty of those responsible to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations. The FEI may therefore make exceptions to the rules, taking fairness and development of the sport into account.

**Art. 1 - PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL**

1. The FEI World Cup™ Dressage is a series of competitions at FEI Grand Prix level, comprising a number of qualifying events and a Final. The FEI Dressage Rules apply, except where stated differently in these rules. Moreover these rules must be read in conjunction with the FEI valid Statutes, General Regulations and Veterinary Regulations.
2. The FEI has established four Leagues, i.e. the Western European League, the Central European League, the North American League, and the Pacific League (Australia and New Zealand). Further Leagues may be established.
3. Specific Qualification Procedures and Guidelines for the North American League, Pacific League must be approved separately by the FEI Dressage Committee. Any changes regarding League Qualification Procedure and guidelines have to be approved by FEI HQ the year before they are to become effective (deadline for submission to the FEI: end March).

4. Although Central Europe, North America, Australia/New Zealand have their own independent Leagues, athletes from these Leagues and from countries not belonging to any League may also qualify in the Western European League. The NF concerned will have to inform the FEI HQ, in writing before the start of the season, which athletes wish to qualify in Western Europe. In that case they will be treated like the Western European competitors. However, athletes from non-Western European Leagues qualifying in Western Europe cannot take away places in the Final from Western European athletes, and will compete in the Final as additional athletes.

It will be the responsibility of the relevant NF to determine which three athletes to send to the Final in the event of more than three athletes qualifying from any one NF as a result of participation in other Leagues.

5. If an athlete changes nationality during a FEI World Cup™ Dressage season, he/she must continue to qualify under the system in which he/she has started the season subject to Article ~~480-1.4-1~~ above. The FEI reserves the right to judge each case individually.

6. Athletes from non-Western European Leagues may also earn points by participating in Western European FEI World Cup™ Dressage events as extra invited athletes but cannot take starting places from WEL athletes and transferring them to their own League. These points from a maximum of **3** Western European events may count in their own League.

6.1. Athletes from the Western European League taking part in CDI-Ws in any other League as extra athletes, may also obtain points for their own League. However, except at one event where they may gain 100% of the points, Western European athletes will receive 50% of the points as mentioned under Art. 4.1 from a second CDI-W (maximum of two events) (in case of participation at several Central European events, the event where the best result was achieved will count 100%). Fractions of 0.5 or more are rounded up.

Athletes from the Central European, North American or Pacific Leagues taking part in CDI-Ws in the Western European League as extra athletes may earn full points for their own League a maximum of two (2) times. Taking part in any other League as extra athletes, they may earn full points once, and 50% of the points from a second CDI-W (maximum of two events in total).

6.2. An athlete can no longer earn points in another league, after the date of the last scheduled competition of his own leagues approved in the FEI Calendar 01 October ~~2015~~2016.

7. The number of FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifying events in Western Europe and Central Europe will be annually decided by the FEI, The number of FEI World Cup™ Dressage events in the other Leagues will be proposed yearly by the respective NFs for approval by FEI HQ.

8. Organising Committees must apply for a CDI-W through their respective National Federation to the FEI according to the established application procedures.

9. In any League, an athlete/horse combination may only start in **six** qualifying events. The **four** best results obtained in the qualifying events will count in the WEL, CEL and PAL, while the **two** best results will count in NAL. In order to qualify for the Final or a League Final an athlete horse/combination must have started at least **two** times in the Freestyle to Music at a CDI-W.(CDI3/4/5\*/CDIOs for athletes belonging to a NF outside established Leagues.)

10. At any event, the FEI Grand Prix Test serves as the qualifying test to the FEI Freestyle to Music, which is the competition in which FEI World Cup™ Dressage points can be earned.

11. For the FEI Freestyle to Music test, article 430 of the Dressage Rules applies.

12. In case of date clashes, CDI-W qualifiers will prevail over CDIs4\* and above in the same league. No CDI5\* or above is allowed on the same dates as the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final.

## **Art. 2 - THE FEI WORLD CUP™ COMMITTEE DRESSAGE**

1. FEI World Cup Dressage matters are decided by the FEI Headquarters upon recommendation of the FEI Dressage Committee.

## **Art. 3 - PARTICIPATION**

1. In Western Europe the number of competitors/horses to take part in the Freestyle to Music is limited to and compulsory for the 15 best combinations in the qualifying FEI World Cup™ Dressage Grand Prix at the event, plus those who tie for the 15th place. Outside Western Europe this number may be less than 15.

2. Failure to start in the Freestyle to Music for reasons other than illness of athlete or horse (in which case the move-up system applies) would mean that the athlete loses his/her FEI Grand Prix classification and FEI World Dressage Ranking List points for the FEI Grand Prix.

3. Reference is made to GR Art. 121.13 "Definite Entries", whereby any NF or competitor, after accepting an invitation in writing and failing to compete without good reason, must be reported by the Organising Committee and the Foreign Judge to the Secretary General of the FEI for the attention of the FEI Legal Department/FEI Tribunal.

4. A Western European athlete is allowed to participate with more than one horse in the FEI World Cup™ Dressage events of the season, but only with one horse in each event.

Outside Western Europe an athlete, including athletes from Western Europe, may start with a maximum of two horses in the qualifying FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle of an event. The best result of the two horses will be counted in the FEI World Cup Standing. In a League Final, an athlete may start with a maximum of two horses in the qualifying FEI Grand Prix. He/she may, however, only opt to qualify with one horse for the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle . A declaration as to the choice of his horse must be made prior to entering the FEI Grand Prix.

There shall be no rest day between the FEI Grand Prix Competition and the FEI World Cup™ Freestyle Competition but these shall be held on two consecutive days.

A athlete may only participate with one horse in the Final. He/she may select the horse of his/her choice, with the restriction that the horse must have started and qualified for at least **two** FEI World Cup Freestyle to Music competitions in the current season and have obtained the minimum qualification criteria of 68% in the two Freestyles. Refer to Art 8.6.

All athletes must participate at a minimum of **two** qualifying events, one of which must be in a foreign country, in order to qualify for the Final.

5. A draw for the order of starting is compulsory for all Competitions.

5.1 Draw for qualifiers:

- For the FEI Grand Prix, the draw (in groups of 5) shall be in the reverse order of the FEI World Dressage Ranking List (WDRL). Athletes who are not listed on the WDRL shall be drawn first.
- For the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle the draw shall be in reverse order of the placing of the FEI Grand Prix Competition (in groups of 5). The starting order applied for a particular event must be stated in the schedule.

5.2. Draw for Final:

- For the FEI Grand Prix the draw will be done in two groups according to the table below, with the Athletes of group 1 being drawn for the first starting places.

	<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
WEL (9)	5	4 (the highest on the WCS in group 2)
CEL (2)	1	1 (the highest on the WCS in group 2)
PAL (1)		1
NAL (2)	1	1 (the highest on the WCS in group 2)

Non.League. (1)	1	
Title def. (1)		1
Extra starting places (1)	1	(based on the WDRL)
Home athlete (1)	<u>                    </u>	<u>1</u>
Total	9	9

(WCS = FEI World Cup Standing)

If more than one place is allocated to "extra starting places", these will be distributed evenly in Group 1 and 2 for the draw.

When an Athlete is replaced, the replacement Athlete takes the slot they are replacing for.

For the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle the draw shall be in reverse order of the placing of the FEI Grand Prix Competition, with 3 in the first group (the lowest placed in the FEI Grand Prix Competition) and 5 for the remaining groups.

6. The FEI World Cup™ Dressage Freestyle to Music Competition must always be the highlight of an event, also as far as prize-money and prizes in kind are concerned, and must always be held on a main day at mid-day or in the afternoon or evening (Saturday). Exceptions to the rules must be approved by the FEI Headquarters.

7. The Freestyle to Music may be interrupted by a short break or a small display, but never by another competition. All breaks longer than 30 minutes have to be approved by the FEI Headquarters.

**Art. 4 – QUALIFICATION WESTERN EUROPEAN and CENTRAL EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In the qualifying events, the points to the athletes who have competed in the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Freestyle will be awarded as follows:

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1st	20 pts	
2nd	17 pts	
3rd	15 pts	
4th	13 pts	
5th	12 pts	
6th	11 pts	
7th	10 pts	
8th	9 pts	
9th	8 pts	
10th	7 pts	
11th	6 pts	
12th	5 pts	
13th	4 pts	
14th	3 pts	
15 <sup>th</sup>	2 pts	(in case of a tie for 15 <sup>th</sup> place, 2 pts for each)

2. There must be five judges for each qualifying event and seven judges for the Final.

3. Three out of the five Judges for the qualifying competitions (both FEI Grand Prix and Freestyle to Music) must be of a nationality other than the host country, and must be selected from the FEI list of 5\* and 4\* Judges. 3\* may only be exceptionally selected with previous approval of the FEI.

There must not be more than two judges of the same nationality in the Ground Jury. Exceptions for CDI-Ws outside Europe must be approved by the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Director.

4. The FEI HQ will appoint the Foreign Judge of the Ground Jury for each qualifying event in the Western European League.

For League Finals a full ground jury consisting of five judges (with a minimum of three foreign judges of different nationalities) must be appointed. The Foreign Judge must be appointed by FEI HQ.

## **Art. 5 - WESTERN EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In Western Europe events may be organised at a limited number of two CDI-Ws per NF. The FEI World Cup™ Dressage qualifying events must be exclusively indoor events.

### 2. Invitations

- A minimum of 6 WEL nations, excluding the home country.
- The first 10 athletes from the FEI World Cup Standings list 23 days before the start of the event must be invited for the World Cup CDI-Ws through their NF. They are included in the number of 2 per country. If more than 2 athletes from any particular country are amongst the top 10, they will all be invited.
- A maximum of 5 home athletes (excluding organiser's wild cards as below). If less than 5 home athletes are invited, more nations shall be invited to fill these places.
- 1 FEI wild card
- 2 Organiser's wild cards.

The invited nations must be approved by the FEI and the schedule must state which NF and how many athletes are invited. The invited NF is to make the selection of athletes to be entered.

3. The FEI World Cup™ Dressage Director may request the Organising Committees of qualifying events to accept two additional wild cards for overseas athletes and Central European Athletes. This must be done if possible before, or shortly after, the definite entries date of the CDI-W in question.

4. A athlete placed in the top ten on the FEI World Cup™ Dressage point-Standing-list and not having completed the allowed number of Western European qualifying events and wishing to compete at any of the last qualifying events between January 1st and the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, cannot be refused by an Organising Committee up until 23 days before the start of the Event.

5. Athletes qualifying through the Western European League who still have a reasonable chance to qualify for the Final, have priority to compete in the last qualifying events.

6. The Organising Committee of the last qualifying event in the Western European League must offer starting places to athletes from other Leagues who are already qualified for the Final and who request a starting place as a warm-up for the Final.

6.1. Athletes from non-Western European Leagues, already qualified for the Final through their own League, who are participating in a Western European qualifier, will not receive any points and their points would be attributed to the

next placed athlete. They are, however, eligible for the prizes according to their placings.

#### **Art. 6 - CENTRAL EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

1. In the Central European League (CEL) the qualifying events may be either outdoors or indoors. They must be CDI-Ws.

2. For the Central European League the same point system as the Western European League (see article 4.1) is valid. The 10 athletes (including ties for a 10th place) with the most points at the end of the qualifying season qualify for the CEL League Final, if such a final is held.

3. Athletes from Central European countries may earn full points for their own League by participating in a maximum of **two** Western European FEI World Cup™ Dressage events (see Article 1.6.1.).

4. If a League Final is held, athletes must participate at a minimum of two qualifying events, one of which must be in a foreign country, in order to qualify for the League Final.

5. Athletes will not bring any points forward from the qualifying events to a League Final, but the result of the League Final will count as the end result of the Central European League.

When a League final is not held, the CEL points Standing list will count as the end result following the final qualifier.

6. A maximum of three athletes per NF is permitted in a League Final.

7. When a League Final is held, the Winner of the CEL League Final will qualify for the Final.

#### **Art. 7 - NON EUROPEAN LEAGUES**

1. Outside the Western European League, the qualifying events may be both indoors or outdoors. They must be CDI-Ws.

2. Those Leagues may establish their own qualification procedure and guidelines (NAL and Pacific League rules) , however, these must not conflict with the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Rules, and must be approved by the FEI HQ.

3. For all qualifying events (including Western and Central European League) and the League Finals, the final classification will be determined by the placings in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle. All athletes will be required to

start in the FEI Grand Prix competition, which will determine the starting order in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle.

4. One of the judges required for the League Final is appointed by the FEI.

#### **Art. 8 PERMANENTLY DOMICILED FOREIGN ATHLETES – ADDITIONAL ATHLETES**

Athletes permanently domiciled in a country (FEI G.R. 123) of another League must be allowed to qualify in that respective League. If qualified for the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final they would compete as additional Athletes. However, there is only one (1) extra starting place for all Leagues combined for this. If more than one (1) athlete qualify according to this article, the athlete with the highest ranking on the WDRL of February ~~2015-2018~~ will receive the extra starting place.

However, according to Article 9, a maximum of three (3) athlete/horse combinations per NF (including the titleholder) will be allowed to participate in the Final.

#### **Art. 9 - FINAL**

1. The Final is an indoor event that must take place at the end of the FEI World Cup™ Dressage season in March or April.
2. The Final consists of the compulsory FEI Grand Prix test and the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle to Music test. All participants who finish the GP with at least 60 percent (Dressage rules article 422.3.1) will continue to the Grand Prix Freestyle.
3. The Final classification will be determined by the placings in the Freestyle.
4. An athlete may start in the Final with one horse only.

Minimum qualification criteria for **all** Finalist combinations including extra starting places:

- Having scored at least 68% in the Freestyle to Music in a FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifying event (CDI-W) on two different occasions or
  - Having scored at least 68% in a Grand Prix Freestyle to Music in a CDI3/4/5\*/CDIO on two different occasions, for athletes not belonging to one of the recognised Leagues.
5. In the Final, a maximum of 18 athletes/horses may participate:

Western European League	9
Central European League	2
Pacific League	1
North America	2
Non-league NFs	1
Title-Defender	1
<u>FEI extra starting places</u>	<u>2</u>

**Total: 18**

The starting place for non-league NFs will be allocated to the athlete with the highest ranking on the February 2018~~7~~ FEI World Ranking List, and who has participated in at least two (2) CDI-W, based on application from the respective NF. The application must reach the FEI not later than the deadline for nominated entries.

The allocation of extra starting places will be decided as follows:

5.1 Permanently domiciled athletes who qualify in the League where they are domiciled (Art. 8, max one extra starting place)

5.2. One athlete from the host NF, if no host NF athlete is already qualified

5.3 If more starting places are available, these will be allocated to the athlete(s) with the highest ranking on the February 2018~~7~~ WDRL, and who have participated in at least two (2) CDI-W.

6. A maximum of three athlete/horse combinations per NF (including the Title-Defender) will be allowed to participate in the Final. It will be the responsibility of the relevant NF to determine which three athletes to send to the Final in the event of more than three athletes qualifying from any one NF as a result of participation in their own or another League or other use of extra starting places.

Athletes qualifying through a Points-standings-list and where there are ties for the last qualifying place, ties will be broken by the total average of percentage given for the athletes at the qualifying events. i.e. The athlete with the highest percentage average will qualify.

7. In case not all qualified athletes can participate in the Final the following system applies:

7.1. in Leagues with 1 qualified athlete: substitution to 2nd place

7.2 in Leagues with 2 qualified athletes: substitution to 4th place

7.3 in Leagues with

3 or more qualified athletes: substitution to the place which is 50 % more than the number qualified, i.e. for 8 qualified athletes substitution to 12th place.

Any unused starting place will be used as an FEI extra starting place.

8 The title defender is automatically qualified with a horse of his/her choice with which, however, he/she must have competed in the Freestyle to Music at least two FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifiers of the particular season. The Title defender will however not earn World Cup standings points for his/her starts.

9 The seven judges (minimum 6 5\* judges, one 4\* judge is permitted) required for the Final are appointed by the FEI and must be of seven different nationalities. The Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) is also appointed by the FEI.

#### **Art. 10 – TRANSPORT, STABLING AND ACCOMODATION**

1. For the qualifying events, the Organising Committees are required to meet the conditions laid down in the Rules for Dressage Events and General Regulations of the FEI as well as per separate Agreement with the FEI (WEL events).

2. For the Final, the travel-, accommodation and meal expenses of athletes, grooms and horses are regulated according to a separate Agreement with the FEI.