



Southern Maine Dressage Association Show Policies 2012

To our valued SMDA schooling show competitors:

As a volunteer-run organization, our goal is to organize shows that are safe, fun, and run in accordance with USDF and USEF rules. It is important that we are clear in our show policies, and that they are enforced consistently to be fair to all competitors. Our show Secretaries and Managers enforce these policies for all competitors.

Year-End Award Requirements

- The rider must be a member of SMDA prior to the ride for the score to count.
- Year-end scores are calculated by test. A horse and rider combination needs a minimum of three scores from different judges for each test. The three best scores are averaged.
- At least two scores must be from an SMDA schooling show. All scores must be from SMDA schooling shows or SMDA affiliated shows.
- All tests qualify for year-end awards.
- The average score must be above 55% to qualify.
- You must submit the SMDA Rider Report Form by November 1st.

Note: The same horse and rider combination cannot win the same SMDA year-end award more than once. This policy encourages riders to “move up” when they consistently earn high scores on a test, and also to be fair to less experienced riders who are competing for the same award. You can still compete in our shows; we are just putting a one-time limit on the year-end award.

Musical Freestyle

Musical Freestyle class is offered for First Level and above. To enter the Musical Freestyle class, you must have successfully completed the highest test at that level. For example, you should ride the Musical Freestyle at First Level after successfully (score 55+) riding a First Level Test 3 (for the 2011 USDF Tests) or Test 4 (for the 2007 USDF tests and years prior). Please submit a photocopy of your qualifying test along with your show entry form. Musical Freestyle class is ridden in the large arena.

Show Entries – Limit on Levels

- All levels – The same horse and rider combination can only ride tests in consecutive levels at a show. In other words, you cannot skip a level at the same show.
- Intro A and B – the same horse and rider combination cannot show in Training Level or above.
- Intro C – the same horse and rider combination cannot show above Training Level Test 1.

Horse Health

Protecting the health of our horses is of utmost importance. We require proof of negative Coggins within one year of the show date for in-state horses, and within six months of the show date for out-of-state horses. We also require proof of rabies vaccination within one year of the show date. Please do not ask us to make exceptions.

- **Important tip:** Please make sure your vet puts your horse's show name on the Coggins form and vaccination record. Our show Secretaries cannot process entries where the name on the paperwork does not match the name on the entry form. Also, please make sure that the photocopy of your Coggins is legible.

How We Process Show Entries

Show Secretaries begin processing entries that they receive on the Opening Date. Entries received before the Opening Date will be returned. Complete entries are processed in the order they are received. A complete entry is one that includes a copy of current Coggins and rabies, a complete entry form (must be signed by rider, owner, and parent or guardian if the rider is under 18), and a check payable to SMDA.

If you submit an entry form that is incomplete (e.g., out-of-date Coggins) the show Secretary will make a reasonable effort to contact you as soon as possible. Please make sure your telephone number and email address are legible on your entry form (yes, we know the space is small – please print neatly). Your entry is then PLACED ON HOLD until you submit the missing information. Please understand that this is necessary – show Secretaries cannot hold a place for you while waiting for missing information. SMDA shows fill very quickly, so it is important that you submit a timely and complete entry.

New for 2012: All signature fields on the Schooling Show Entry form must be complete. We must have the rider's signature (regardless of rider age), parent signature for riders under 18 years old, and the horse owner's signature. Even if the rider and the owner are the same, we need signatures in both fields. If you are leasing the horse you show you MUST get the owner's signature.

- **Important tip:** It pays to be organized! Schedule your spring shots and Coggins in advance of the first show. Make enough photocopies to last the entire season.

The Wait List

Show Secretaries try to squeeze in as many rides as possible. Once the show is full, however, we start a wait list and you will be notified if you are on the wait list. Whenever possible, we try to fill scratches with entries on the wait list; however, once the ride times are run it is more difficult to do this, as we need to match the open slot with an appropriate wait list ride (for example, a Training 1 slot cannot feasibly be filled with a Second Level ride).

If we are not able to get you into the show, the Secretary will contact you and either return or destroy your check.

No Refunds for Cancellations and Scratches

After the show Closing Date, we cannot refund your entry fees. It is too difficult to try to juggle entries, and we still have to pay for the park and our judges, and so on. We realize that this will make some people unhappy, and it may seem unfair if your horse has come up lame or if you have to scratch for another legitimate reason. However, this is the standard practice at recognized shows, and it has become necessary for us to adhere to this policy as well.

Show Fees

- Regular dressage tests are \$25 per test.
- There is a \$1 number deposit per rider; the deposit is refunded to you when you turn in your number at the end of the show.
- Non-SMDA members must pay a \$3 non-member fee. The non-member fee is applied once for your whole entry, and not per class.

Ride Times

Ride times are posted on the SMDA website at www.southernmainedressage.com either before or by the Thursday prior to the show date. Times are also available by calling the Secretary the Thursday before the show between the hours of 6:00pm and 9:00pm.

Show Etiquette and Attire

At our regular schooling shows, traditional dressage attire is required (conservative colored jacket, light breeches, and so on). See the USDF website for more information on rules regarding whip length, legal bits, acceptable attire, and so on.

In 2008 the Hollis Equestrian Park renovated the warm-up ring, and for safety reasons we request that all riders use the designated warm-up area. Remain at a walk at all times outside of the warm-up ring. Extend courtesy to other riders. Listen to the announcements and check with the ring steward to make sure you get to the ring on time for your test.

Show day is very busy and some horses get a bit nervous. To help keep things quiet, we request that you please leave your dog at home!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the show Secretary (or any of our Board Members) who are happy to help you. Especially if you are new to dressage or showing, please ask for assistance to make sure you have all the right information needed to make your show experience a success!

USEF Helmet Rules

Effective March 1, 2011, for dressage: Anyone mounted on a horse must wear protective headgear except those riders age 18 and over while on horses that are competing only in FEI levels and tests at the Prix St. Georges level and above (including FEI Young Rider Tests, the USEF Developing Prix St. Georges Test and the USEF Brentina Cup Test). SMDA strongly recommends that ALL riders wear protective gear, including at the FEI levels!

Thank you,

The SMDA Board of Directors