



## **CARIBBEAN EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION REGIONAL & MINI DRESSAGE CHALLENGE**

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The Caribbean Equestrian Association Regional Dressage Challenge (RDC) and Mini Dressage Challenge (MDC) is open to all member countries for 2025-2026.

The CEA Dressage Challenges will be held under FEI rules and regulations for FEI tests and under USEF rules and regulations for USEF tests. FEI veterinary regulations will apply for all competitors in the horse inspection. Rules will apply as effective on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the opening competition year.

Rules apply to both the CEA Regional Dressage Challenge (RDC) and the CEA Mini Dressage Challenge (MDC). If an article does not clearly identify a difference between the RDC or MDC, it applies equally to both. Any CEA rule specifically listed herein will supercede FEI and USEF rules for this competition.

Tests are FEI Tests with 2022 updates <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/dressage/tests> and USEF Tests 2023 effective 12/1/2022 to 11/30/2026 <https://usdf.org/competitions/competitors/tests.asp>.

CEA RDC Freestyles are held in accordance with FEI Directives and USEF Rules, Guidelines, and Definitions. The CEA MDC will hold Freestyle classes for in accordance with USEF principles and CEA developed freestyle guidelines and score sheets (attached).

Freestyle information can be found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/useful-docs> and <https://usdf.org/education/other-programs/musical-freestyle/index.asp>.

The CEA Dressage Challenges must be organized strictly according to CEA Rules. The CEA Dressage Advisory Committee is entitled to make reasonable amendments the present rules. Any omission or variation as relates to these rules will be referred to the CEA Dressage Advisory Committee and Executive Board and their final ruling will stand.

All Competitors must be members of their National Federation.

### **1. THE COMPETITION**

1.1. This is an individual and a team competition. The competition is open September 1 to June 30 of the following calendar year. Each CEA member country can hold their competition at any time during the year but it must be held on or before 30 June.

1.2. CEA Regional Dressage Challenge:

#### **Classes:**

USEF Training Level Test 3  
USEF First Level Test 3  
USEF Second Level Test 3  
USEF Third Level Test 3  
USEF Fourth Level Test 1  
FEI Prix St. George (adult only)  
FEI Intermediate I (adult only)  
FEI Intermediate A and B (adult only)  
FEI Intermediate II (adult only)  
FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special (adult only)

#### **Teams:**

CEA RDC Childrens Team  
CEA RDC Adult Team  
CEA RDC Open Freestyle Team (all ages)



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### **1.3. CEA Mini Dressage Challenge:**

#### **Classes:**

USEF Introductory Level Test A  
USEF Introductory Level Test B  
USEF Introductory Level Test C  
USEF Training Level Test 1

#### **Teams:**

CEA MDC Childrens Team  
CEA MDC Adult Team  
CEA MDC Open Freestyle Team (all ages)

1.4. All tests must be ridden entirely from memory and all movements must follow in the order laid down in the tests.

1.5. Classes can be run together to suit the show schedule as per Article 11 but will be pinned separately.

1.6. Upon qualification, as per Article 2, horse/rider combinations may also enter the Freestyle by level.

## **2. FREESTYLE QUALIFYING**

Horse/rider combinations qualify for the freestyle competition at their level once they achieve a qualifying score of 58% or above in a qualifying show or on the day of the CEA Challenge.

## **3. GROUND JURY**

3.1. One judge will judge the competition within the CEA and is appointed on an annual basis by the CEA Dressage Advisory Committee. The same judge will travel from country to country until the tour is completed and all competitions have taken place.

3.2. The judge must be placed on the short side of the arena at letter "C." A bell must be provided for the President of the Ground Jury.

3.3. If there is a need for a judge's fee, it must be agreed to by majority vote inside the CEA Dressage Advisory Committee. The fee will be negotiated across the CEA and will appear on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be agreed to and signed by the judge. The timetable agreed to with the judge must be agreed upon bearing in mind the possibility to share airline tickets as much as possible.

3.4. NFs shall have the option to bring in a second FEI judge, at their own expense, in order to use the CEA RDC as a CDN or qualifying event. However, the scores given by this second judge will not go towards the CEA RDC results. In such case, the NF should inform the CEA of their plans to host with an additional FEI judge.

3.5. After each competition, the President of the GJ is responsible for establishing and signing a running record of the results and placing of the individual competitors within the CEA as well as the starting lists and the exact order of go.

## **4. AGE OF COMPETITORS**

This competition is open to competitors of all ages. Adult classes are open to all adult competitors aged 17 years and older. Childrens classes are open to those competitors aged 16 years and younger. Age is determined from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the opening year of the competition.



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### **5. HORSES/PONIES**

This competition is open to all horses and ponies of any origin. Any reference in the rules to horses shall also include ponies.

### **6. ELIGIBILITY OF HORSE/RIDER COMBINATIONS**

6.1. A horse/rider combination may not compete in classes at a level below any level where that horse/rider combination has scored 57% or higher at a CEA RDC or FEI WDC. A horse/rider combination that has competed in a CEA RDC FEI class or FEI WDC Senior class cannot compete at a level below FEI or Second Level, respectively.

6.2. Notwithstanding Article 7.1, a rider that has competed at Prix St. George or above may only compete at or below Second Level on a green or medium level horse.

6.3. Should a horse/rider combination re-enter competition after more than one annual absence of the CEA RDC and FEI WDC, they will be permitted to participate at the level deemed suitable by their country NF and CEA Organizing Committee. Such combinations will not be eligible for the Team Competition until they have been reclassified via competition to assess their score versus the 57% benchmark.

6.4. It is the responsibility of the National Federation to select participants (horse/rider) for this competition. NFs are free to set qualification limits and may also hold selection trials consistent with the principles of the CEA rules in the case of too many riders.

6.5. A horse and rider combination is not eligible to compete in the CEA RDC and the CEA MDC. If a horse and rider combination mistakenly enters and rides in both the CEA RDC and the CEA MDC, the score from the CEA RDC will go forward to CEA results.

### **7. ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS**

7.1. Riders may cross-enter between the CEA RDC and the CEA MDC in the same competition year, but only on different horses.

7.2. A rider is allowed to start any number of times in the competition.

7.3. A rider can only contribute to any team score once in the RDC and once in the MDC. The rider's highest score will go forward towards team results. A rider can contribute to multiple teams if they and their horse are eligible by all sections of Articles 6, 7, and 8.

7.4. The competition is open to competitors domiciled abroad. As per FEI GR Article 123.10, a competitor is considered to be living abroad if he or she spends more than six months of the year in a foreign country (outside the host country). These riders may be members of their country's team.

### **8. ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES**

8.1. All entries are at the discretion of the NF and OC, who may consider the weather conditions of the competition day and the fitness level of each horse.



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8.2. A horse or pony may go in up to two (2) USEF-level CEA RDC classes or one (1) FEI-level CEA RDC class in any one day of CEA competition. CEA MDC horses may compete in up to three (3) MDC classes in any one day of CEA competition. A horse competing in the CEA RDC may compete in one additional class of the CEA MDC per day. Test and freestyle classes count separately towards these limits (ie, First Level Test 3 and First Level Freestyle constitute two classes).

8.3. Horses are limited to no more than two (consecutive) classes with any given rider.

8.4. Under penalty of elimination, no horse may take part in the competition which has been schooled by anyone other than the competitor(s), mounted in the saddle, in or outside the town where the competition is held, from 18.00 hours on the day preceding the competition until the competition is finished.

8.5. A horse can contribute to any team, multiple times if applicable, in both the CEA RDC and CEA MDC if they and their rider are eligible by all sections of Articles 6, 7, and 8.

### **9. RING SIZE**

9.1. 20 m x 60 m for the CEA Regional Dressage Challenge, however The USEF Training Level Test 3 may be ridden in the short arena (20m x 40m).

9.2. 20 m x 40 m for the CEA Mini Dressage Challenge

### **10. HORSE INSPECTION**

10.1. The horse inspection is optional for the CEA RDC and CEA MDC.

10.2. CEA Horse Inspection is recommended as follows in Article 10.3 to 10.10. The NF and OC can handle the logistics, in coordination with the President of the Ground Jury, as suits their membership and in the interest of horse welfare to ensure horses not fit to compete are not included in the CEA Challenge.

10.3. A steward will organize the horse inspection prior to the start of the event, with horses being inspected by themselves, the President of the Ground Jury, and a veterinarian. If a veterinarian is not available, they can be replaced on the panel by a member of the NF or CEA representative.

10.4. The panel of three, Steward, President of the Ground Jury, and vet or NF/CEA representative, has the final acceptance (or not) of a horse at Horse Inspection. There is no appeal.

10.5. A horse that is not fit to compete or has any blood or open wounds will be eliminated.

10.6. The format will follow FEI veterinarian regulations with the exception that the inspection can take place at multiple venues on the day prior to and/or the day of the event. The OC can schedule as many Horse Inspections as is necessary. It could be beneficial for an OC to run an inspection for the morning competition horses and then another inspection for the afternoon competition horses.

10.7. A second handler is allowed if necessary for an unruly horse. The rider should contact the Inspection Panel prior to the Horse Inspection to obtain permission and discuss the appropriate way to present with two handlers (one on each side). If a rider is too young, and it is approved by the panel, the trainer can present the horse with the rider present.



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10.8. A horse can only present at one Horse Inspection, no reinspection is allowed.

10.9. The Horse Inspection schedule must be published to the riders with a starting and ending time. The Order of Go should follow the Order of Go in the arena, especially if the Horse Inspection is held on the day of the competition. Times can be assigned for each horse to present.

10.10. The panel may eliminate a horse that is not ready to present at the scheduled time for Horse Inspection.

### **11. CLINIC**

The clinic is not compulsory. Each NF is free to organize an educational event after the show schedule is complete to suit their country's needs within reason and provided the judge is willing to teach. The additional cost for the clinic will be paid by the host country. The CEA Dressage Advisory Committee must be kept informed to coordinate properly with the judge.

### **12. SHOW SCHEDULES**

12.1. Each organizer will set the show schedule to best suit the riders and horses competing. The CEA Dressage Challenges must take precedence over any other competition organized alongside it. Horses entered in the CEA Challenges may take part in the national competition at the discretion of the NF and OC with the welfare of the horse being paramount in the design of the event. CEA Challenge classes should run before national classes.

12.2. The CEA RDC and/or CEA MDC must be completed in no more than two consecutive days. Judge travel, horse inspection, and clinics may take place before and after the two show days as the timetable for the event is flexible depending on the number of days planned in each country.

Day 1: Judge's arrival, horse inspection (can also be run on Day 2)

Day 2 & 3: CEA RDC and CEA MDC classes, followed by national classes if so scheduled

Day 4: Optional clinic to be arranged between each country and the judge

12.3. CEA RDC and CEA MDC classes may go in any order in the schedule. The competition and clinic may also be held on travel days or the same day if necessary but only in the above order: competition then clinic.

### **13. VENUE**

13.1. It is expected that each country will hold their CEA Dressage Challenges at one (1) venue. The CEA Dressage Judge/President of the Ground Jury can allow an exception of up to two (2) venues if the resulting show schedule and travel between venues is reasonable. This must be discussed with the judge when booking dates to ensure no surprises on horse show weekend. The judge's decision is final.

13.2. In exceptional weather conditions and with the authority of the Ground Jury, the competition may be held indoors if the competition arena has the proper measurements. The decision to move indoors must



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be made at least 24 hours before the beginning of the competition to give the OC enough time to set the arena properly.

### **14. SCORING & RESULTS**

14.1. Each Organizing Committee must submit their order of go at least 48 hours prior to the start of competition to the CEA Dressage Secretary. Each CEA country is allowed to publish the order of go as they see fit to increase visibility and excitement among CEA competitors.

14.2. Each Organizing Committee must submit their results, judge's cards, and final order of go (including class order/schedule) within one week of the competition to the CEA Dressage [Secretary](#). Results from all rides must be included to correctly tabulate the team scores. Each CEA country is allowed to publish their results as they see fit to increase visibility and excitement among CEA competitors.

14.3. CEA standard score sheets will be provided, results will not be accepted in any other form. Standard USEF and FEI judge's cards will be used. The score sheets and judge's cards must be signed by the Ground Jury.

14.4. To break ties between countries, the score sheets must be complete including the tie break scores. In the case of a tie between countries, riders from countries providing the complete marks will pin higher than those from countries with incomplete score sheets. To avoid incomplete marks, a copy of each judge's card may be provided.

14.5. The CEA Dressage Secretary will tabulate the results and distribute individual and team placings to the Dressage Advisory Committee and Presidents and Secretaries of the member countries at the end of the competition year

### **15. INDIVIDUAL PLACING**

15.1. Will be based on individual rider results across the Caribbean for each class, Test and Freestyle, separately by Adult and Childrens. Individual placings are ranked by highest total points converted into percentage. Rankings will be published including all horse/rider combinations.

15.2. In the event of a tie for first, second, or third place, the tie will be decided by the following scores.

|                        | <b>First Tie Break</b>                           | <b>Second Tie Break</b>         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>USEF Tests</b>      | Total Collective Marks including the coefficient | Rider's Position (and Seat)     |
| <b>USEF Freestyles</b> | Final Artistic Impression including deductions   | Harmony between Horse and Rider |
| <b>FEI Tests</b>       | Collective Mark                                  | (tie will stand)                |
| <b>FEI Freestyles</b>  | Points for Artistic Presentation                 | Harmony between Horse and Rider |

### **16. TEAM PLACING**



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16.1. Will be based on team scores, which are calculated as total points converted into percentage plus the team bonus points by level for each team category. The three (3) best team scores (percentage plus team bonus points) from each country will add to determine the total team score.

### **16.2. Team Bonus Points for CEA RDC**

First Level: add 1.0%  
Second Level: add 2.0%  
Third Level: add 3.0%  
Fourth Level: add 4.0%  
Prix St. George: add 5.0%  
Intermediate I: add 6%  
Intermediate A and B: add 7.0%  
Intermediate II: add 8.0%  
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special: add 9.0%

### **16.3. Team Bonus Points for CEA MDC**

Introductory B: add 1.0%  
Introductory C: add 2.0%  
Training Level: add 3.0%

16.4. Team placing will be announced to include all countries participating. Ties will be awarded in the same fashion as applied to the individual results as explained above.

## **17. SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT**

17.1. Saddlery shall follow FEI or USEF rules, as applicable to, the test being ridden with the following exception.

17.2. Whips, of regulation length, may be carried into the competition arena at FEI levels 1.10m length for horses and 1.0m for ponies.

## **18. DRESS CODE**

18.1. It is compulsory for all persons to wear a properly fitting and properly fastened protective headgear at all times when mounted. Any protective headgear infraction mandates rider elimination.

18.2. The CEA Dressage Challenge follows the FEI rules of dress with the exception that light colored breeches or jodphurs may be worn with boots. For the MDC, show shirts, collared shirts or polo shirts are allowed if they are white, buttoned up, and tucked in with a belt.

18.3. Jackets should be available but can be waived on the day of the show by the Ground Jury.

## **19. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

19.1. A trained emergency medical professional (EMT) must be on-site for the entire event.





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19.2. FEI Medical Services rules will apply. After a fall, every rider must be checked by the event medical professional.

19.3. The EMT must have:

- i. Quick and easy access to the arena,
- ii. Adequate vision of the arena,
- iii. Instruction to remain alert while any rider is mounted on showgrounds,
- iv. Basic guidance about the horse show layout including the expectation to act if and when a rider falls or is injured,
- v. Contact person to find upon arriving at the event.

### **19. COPYRIGHT**

Any rider entered by his or her NF in the CEA Dressage Challenges concedes the rights of any photographs of the horse and/or rider. Every rider accepts their publication on any website, magazine, or newspaper.

### **20. IN THE INTEREST OF FAIR PLAY**

While it is important to encourage riders to compete, NF's must apply the intent of these rules in the interest of the welfare of the horse. FEI Code of Conduct will apply at all times.

### **FEI CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. In all equestrian sports the horse must be considered paramount.
2. The well-being of the horse shall take precedence over the demands of all interested parties and commercial concerns.
3. All handling and veterinary treatment must ensure the health and welfare of the horse.
4. The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times
5. During transportation, adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment during transportation.
6. Emphasis should be placed on increasing education and training and equestrian practices and on promoting scientific studies in equine health.
7. In the interests of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider shall be regarded as essential.
8. All riding and training methods should take account of the horse as a living creature and must not include any technique considered by the F.E.I. to be abusive.
9. National Federations must establish adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the horse.





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10. The National and International Rules and Regulations in equestrian sport regarding the health and welfare of the horse must be adhered to, not only during National and International events, but also during training: such rules shall be regularly reviewed.