

Directives for FEI International Dressage Competitions for Children

Effective from 1st January 2020

The FEI Rules for Dressage Events apply to all international Children Dressage events, except where stated differently below.

1. General.

The Children test will be judged with the aim to focus on the riding skills of the Athletes, the use of the aids, precision in the execution of the movements and harmony with the horse (presentation).

To achieve this, the Judges will have different roles depending on where they sit around the arena.

Judges on the short side will be judging the technical aspect of the test, execution of the movements, flow of the test, and the Judges on the long side will be judging the riding skills, Riders' position and seat, effectiveness of aids, Precision, General impression.

2. FEI Children Dressage Tests.

- FEI Children Preliminary A
- FEI Children Preliminary B
- FEI Children Team
- FEI Children individual

New in the tests in 2020:

- Except for the change of the coefficients, the Children Preliminary A, Team and Individual tests are essentially unchanged from the past.
- The level of difficulty of Children Test Preliminary B is new and has been raised, following advice of the Chefs d'Equipe at the FEI European Championship in Italy.
- The Judges on the long side will have to complete a specific Marking Sheet:

Children Quality Marking Sheet - including directives

Assessment of individual tasks	Commentary	Mark
Rider's position and seat. Seat: well balanced, elastic, in centre of saddle, absorbing movements of horse. Correct position of upper body, arm, elbow, hand, leg, heel.		
Effectiveness of aids. Influence of the aids on presentation of horse accord. to 'Scale of Training'. Influence of aids on correct presentation of movements/ paces. Sensitive use of aids. Independence of rider's seat		
Precision Preparation of movements. Accuracy of execution of figures. Execution of movements at markers prescribed. Maintenance of correct tempo.		
General impression Harmony of presentation. Correctness of paces. Ability to present the horse favourably.		
Total marks (max 40)		
Divided by 4 = Total Quality Score		
Quality Score in %		

The FEI Dressage Children test sheets can be found [here](#).

3. Principles of Judging Children Classes.

Technical changes:

- The entrance has been split up in two movements to better reward the preparation of the halt and the depart.
- Specific movements which need rider's skills such as turn on haunches now have a coefficient of 2.
- The entrance in the Individual is in collected trot and not in working trot.
- In the Marking Sheet we have added the correctness of the paces and changed the expression 'invisibility of aids' into 'sensitive use of aids'.

4. Judging System of Children Classes.

Judges positions:

Panel of three (3) Judges:

- President + two (2) members
- Technical Judging: One (1) Judge at C
- Quality Judging: two (2) Judges sitting together preferably* at E

Panel of five (5) Judges (FEI Championships)

- President + four (4) members
- Technical Judging: three (3) Judges, one at C, one at H and one at B
- Quality Judging: two (2) Judges sitting together at E

* This would be the preferred seating. In case the set-up of the arena does not allow the quality marking judges to sit at E, they may sit at B.

5. Marks.

- As in other Dressage tests, decimals may be used for the quality marks only.
- Deductions for "other penalties" must be deducted from the technical score(s) only.
- The final score calculation will be made as follow:

Technical score in %:		
Quality score in %:		
TOTAL score in %: (Technical plus Quality divided by two)		
To be deducted / penalty points 1st error of course : 0.5 percentage point 2nd error of course : 1.0 percentage point 3rd error of course : Elimination		
FINAL SCORE in % :		

6. Scoring:

Technical mark scoring:

- The Judge or Judges scoring the technical mark each give an individual score.
- At Championships, when three (3) Judges give the technical marks, the scores of each judge are added and divided by 3 to determine the final average technical % score.

Quality mark scoring:

- The two (2) Judges, sitting together at E*, have to discuss the 4 criteria and come to 4 agreed marks for seat, aids, precision and General impression.
- The 4 marks are added and divided by 4 to determine the final mark in %.

Final score:

Panel of three (3) Judges:

The final score is determined by adding the technical score in % (Judge at C) and the quality score in % (score at E) divided by 2.

Panel of five (5) Judges (FEI Championships)

The final score is determined by adding the average technical score in % (average of three (3) Judges) and the quality score in % (score at E) divided by 2.

7. Ties at CDICH.

Ties are not broken at CDICH shows, combinations are placed equally.

8. Ties at CDI Os and FEI Championships.

Individual Classification:

In case of equality of percentage for the first three (3) places, the following system must be used to break the tie:

- The "technical" mark will be used; the Athlete/Horse combination with the higher "technical" mark will be ranked highest.
- If still tied, the highest total median score of the three (3) Technical Judges

will decide the placing. Please refer to article 452 and 459 of the FEI Dressage Rules.

- If still tied, the combinations will be placed equally.

Team Classification:

- Ref. to the FEI Dressage Rules.