

**KUWAIT EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
DRESSAGE RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Rev. 01/2025)**

الاتحاد الكويتي للفروسية
KUWAIT EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

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I. OBJECTIVE OF KEF NATIONAL DRESSAGE EVENTS

- Kuwait Equestrian Federation (KEF) is governing national dressage events in order to preserve the equestrian art from the abuses to which it can be exposed and to preserve it in the purity of its principles, so that such principles of the discipline could be handed down intact to future generations of Athletes.
- The mission of KEF Dressage Rules & Regulations is to promote, guide, develop and manage dressage in Kuwait and to do so in a manner which promotes the highest standards in both equestrianism and animal welfare.
- These Rules are established so that competitors and teams of competitors may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions.

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. These Dressage Rules shall apply to all national dressage events held under the auspices of Kuwait Equestrian Federation.
2. Dressage events shall be recognized by KEF only when they are included into the Official Calendar, organized and judged in full accordance with the KEF's Dressage Rules and Regulations.
3. Each competition (level) has its own test. The official dressage tests are published under the authority of KEF and can in no case be modified or simplified without the approval of KEF. No tests other than the official KEF Dressage tests may be used at the national Dressage Events. The official dressage tests are published on the KEF Dressage website <https://kuwaitdressage.com/>
 - 3.1 If an OC would like to try out a new test or competition format, this should be approved by KEF.
4. Subject to the jurisdiction of KEF, protests may be lodged against any person's failure to comply with the sport rules or violation of the common principles of behavior, fairness, or accepted standards of sportsmanship, whether occurring during or in connection with an event or, in the case of abuse of horse, at any time.
5. No event may commence without the presence of medical services. Show organizers are therefore obliged to ensure that medical services are present prior to and throughout their event.
6. All riders MUST have memberships with Kuwait Equestrian Federation in order to be allowed to participate in dressage competitions recognized by KEF.

III. REGISTRATION WITH KEF

1. Full season membership fee for Kuwaiti and resident riders: KD 20
2. Foreign/visiting riders without a valid Kuwaiti Civil ID, must purchase an Event Pass to be eligible to compete in the events:
 - One (1) Event Pass fee: KD 20
 - Full Season Pass fee: KD 20
3. All registrations via KEF website www.kwfederation.com

IV. THE FEI CONDUCT FOR WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) expects all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

1. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriering and tack, and transportation.
2. Horses and Riders must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
3. Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
4. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.
5. Any person witnessing an abuse must report it to an official without delay.

V. CATEGORIES AND LEVELS OF DRESSAGE EVENTS

Kuwait Equestrian Federation established a structure of national dressage competitions based on the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS) system of grading test into separate Levels by increasing degree of difficulty. KEF offers nine (9) national levels which gradually prepare riders to the international competitions. Every level offers several dressage tests, which are numbered in accordance with the increasing difficulty level for every competition and KEF will specify which tests to be ridden in the Competition Schedule. The following levels are recognized:

NATIONAL LEVELS:

Level 1 – Basic (B)

Level 2 – Light First (L1)

Level 3 – Light Second (L2)

Level 4 – Medium First (M1)

Level 5 – Medium Second (M2)

Level 6 – Advanced First (A1)

Level 7 – Advanced Second (A2)

Level 8 – Advanced Third (A3)

Level 9 – Advanced Heavy (AH)

1. Training Level (TL) is an unofficial introductory (lowest) level, it is intended to help new riders and young horses gain confidence before entering the official KEF dressage levels. KEF designates one (1) test per competition for Training Level.
2. KEF designates two (2) tests per level per competition from Basic Level up to Advanced Heavy. Riders are allowed to choose performing two (2) tests or one (1) test per level.
3. Every combination can start in a level of their own choice in either Training Level, Basic Level, Light First level, Light Second Level or Medium First Level. It is best to discuss this with the trainer, so the combination joins the most appropriate test for their riding abilities.
4. Combinations are restricted to participation in one (1) level per competition.
5. If the rider has successfully qualified from Medium Second Level or lower levels, then the rider can start with any new combination from the same level he/she successfully passed or two (2) levels lower.
6. If the rider has successfully qualified from Advanced First Level and above levels, then the rider can start with any new combination from the same level he/she successfully passed from or minimum Medium First Level. Unless the new combination is with a young horse, the rider can compete at any level in accordance with KEF's Young Horses regulations declared herein.

VI. TESTS

1. Dressage tests are carefully designed sequences of movements that evaluate the training, balance, suppleness, and obedience of the horse, as well as the skill and effectiveness of the rider. Dressage tests not only provide a fair and consistent way to measure performance but also guide training goals and highlight areas for improvement.
2. Each test is performed in a standard arena and judged. Tests are organized by levels, from Basic Level up to Advanced Heavy Level and an unofficial introductory Training Level, allowing combinations to progress as their abilities improve.
3. KEF designates only one (1) test for Training Level per competition.
4. Basic Level up to Advanced Heavy Level, KEF designates two (2) tests per level per competition.
 - 4.1 Riders are allowed to choose riding two (2) tests or one (1) test per level.
 - 4.2 In the event the rider chose to ride one test, the rider must specify the test chosen in the Entry Sheet submitted. If NOT, the OC will decide the test to be ridden by the rider.
5. The same combination cannot ride the same test more than once in a single competition.
6. If necessitates, KEF may make exceptions to designate one (1) test per level.

VII. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The registration is per combination, meaning that per individual horse and rider are registered as one combination. Horses and Riders must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete.

1. Young Horses

- 1.1 The minimum allowed age for a horse to compete in KEF dressage competitions is four (4) years, as detailed in the following table.

Level	Minimum Allowed Horse Age (Years)
Training Level (TL)	4
Basic (B)	4
Light First (L1)	4
Light Second (L2)	4
Medium First (M1)	5

Level	Minimum Allowed Horse Age (Years)
Medium Second (M2)	5
Advanced First (A1)	6
Advanced Second (A2)	6
Advanced Third (A3)	6
Advanced Heavy (AH)	6

1.2 The age of horses is counted from 1st January of the year of birth.

1.3 Horses of any origin may take part in KEF dressage competitions.

2. Number of Horses per Rider per Competition

2.1 One or more riders can compete on the same horse in accordance with the following:

2.1.1 Maximum three (3) riders can compete on the same horse in Training Level (TL), Basic Level (B), Light First Level (L1) and Light Second Level (L2).

2.1.2 Maximum two (2) riders can compete on the same horse in Medium First Level (M1), Medium Second Level (M2), Advanced First Level (A1), Advanced Second Level (A2), Advanced Third Level (A3) and Advanced Heavy Level (AH).

2.2 Each rider is permitted maximum two (2) combinations per level.

2.2.1 The rider may register maximum two (2) combinations in each level and can ride several levels in the same competition, for example: 1 combination in Training level (TL), 2 combinations in Basic Level (B), and 2 combinations in Light First Level (L1).

3. Number of Tests per Horse per Day

3.1 A horse can start a maximum of three (3) tests per day in Training Level (TL), Basic Level (B), Light First Level (L1) and Light Second Level (L2).

3.1.1 In the event a horse forms combinations with three (3) different riders, then each rider is allowed to start ONLY one (1) test per day.

3.1.2 When a horse forms combinations with two (2) different riders competing in Basic Level and either in Light First Level (L1) or Light Second Level (L2), then one (1) rider is allowed to start two (2) tests, and the second rider can ONLY start one (1) test. For example, one (1) rider starts two (2) tests in Basic Level (B), and the other rider starts one (1) test in Light First Level (L1).

3.2 A horse can start a maximum of two (2) tests per day in Medium First Level and above.

3.2.1 When a horse forms combinations with two (2) different riders, then each rider can do maximum one (1) test.

3.2.2 When a horse forms a combination with one (1) rider, then it is allowed to do two (2) tests.

VIII. POINTS SYSTEM AND QUALIFICATION

There are several levels which make up KEF competitions, each level is made up of a number of tests that a rider can work through. A rider wins points by competing in an affiliated class at Basic level and above, and by scoring a minimum of 60%. Points are awarded to the horse/rider according to the percentage they score. Points accumulated at each level will then count towards the horse or riders eligibility for future competitions. All the points at every competition are officially registered by KEF.

1. Points System.

Score %	Points
60-62.99	1
63-65.99	2
66-69.99	3
70-100	4

1.1 Scores ranging from 56-59.99% are not eligible for any point.

1.2 Scoring lower than 56% in more than two (2) tests in the same level in a row will lead to downgrading of the combination to the previous lower level.

2. Qualification.

The registration is per combination. All combinations must comply with the qualification criteria as described in the following table:

Level	Points Required to Qualify for Next Level
Basic (B)	4
Light First (L1)	4
Light second (L2)	4
Medium First (M1)	4
Medium Second (M2)	4
Advanced First (A1)	3
Advanced Second (A2)	3
Advanced Third (A3)	3
Advanced Heavy (AH)	3

- 2.1 Training Level requires one score above 65% in order to be qualified for Basic Level (B), the first official national level. After a combination in Training Level receives 3 times a score above 65% the combination MUST compete in Basic Level (B).
- 2.2 From Basic Level up to Medium Second Level, four (4) points are needed to qualify to a higher level. If a combination accumulates more than ten (10) points in the same Level the combination MUST compete in the next higher level.
- 2.3 From Advanced First Level up to Advanced Heavy level, three (3) points are needed to move to a higher level. If a combination accumulates more than ten (10) points in the same Level the combination MUST compete in the next higher level.
- 2.4 A combination can ride in a lower level for schooling purposes (H/C), but their results will not be counted therefore not competing towards prizes of that level.
- 2.5 Points are accumulative throughout the competitions. Hence, qualification points can be accumulated in one (1) competition or several competitions.

IX. COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Kuwait Equestrian Federation organizes competitions in virtue of its vital role in promoting the sport, motivating riders to refine their skills and work consistently, and maintaining high standards of training and welfare. KEF's objective is to establish a competitive environment that fosters a sense of community, allowing riders to learn from one another and celebrate their shared passion.

1.1 Competition Judges

Kuwait Equestrian Federation strives to maintain integrity and credibility of any dressage competition through ensuring fairness in the selection of judges. To uphold this fairness the selection process is based on transparency, qualifications, experience, and adherence to KEF's code of conduct.

- 1.1.1 KEF reserves the sole discretion to appoint a judge.
- 1.1.2 Only official international or national judges shall be appointed.
- 1.1.3 National judges from other countries MUST have an active license from the respective country's National Federation and judged in a level equivalent to KEF highest national level (Advanced Heavy Level).
- 1.1.4 Sponsors and OC may recommend judges, yet appointing judges is subject to KEF's approval.

1.2 Judges Code of Conduct

- 1.2.1 A judge must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A judge must have a neutral, independent and fair position towards riders, owners, trainers, OCs and other officials and integrate well into a team. Financial and/or personal interest must never influence or be perceived to influence the way of judging.
- 1.2.2 Activities which will lead to “conflict of interest” when officiating at a competition, include but are not limited to:
- Training a participating horse/rider.
 - Being the owner/part-owner of a horse taking part in a competition;
 - Having a close personal relationship with a rider or trainer competing in the competition.
- 1.2.3 Acting with Integrity and always prioritizing the welfare of the horse and the sport’s integrity.
- 1.2.4 Ensuring objectivity and fairness in all assessments, avoiding any bias.
- 1.2.5 Maintaining professionalism both in public and within the officiating environment.
- 1.2.6 Upholding confidentiality of information obtained during their duties.
- 1.2.7 Adherence to all relevant rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth by KEF.

2. Hors Concours (H/C) for Schooling Purposes

The primary aim of Hors Concours (H/C) is to maintain fairness in the competition by keeping the focus on the competitors who are actually competing for placements, while also allowing riders to participate in a non-competitive capacity. The rules ensure that (H/C) does not interfere with the competitive nature, it’s meant to allow a participant to ride without skewing the competitive results and jeopardize the competition’s integrity.

- 2.1 Competing (H/C) means that the rider and horse take part in a test outside of the competition. They may be judged and scored, but they are not eligible for prizes, placings, or points, and their results do not influence the outcome of the class.
- 2.2 All KEF’s dressage rules and regulations still apply to (H/C) entries.
- 2.3 Riders may compete (H/C) at any level they have successfully passed.
- 2.4 Riders must declare their intention to compete (H/C) at the time of submitting the competition’s registration Entry Sheet.
- 2.5 It is not allowed to change an entry from (H/C) to competitive.
- 2.6 A horse that has been ridden (H/C) in a particular test or level may not then compete in that same level competitively on the same day by another rider.

- 2.7 (H/C) combinations will receive a score from the judge; however, the result will be marked as (H/C) on the official record and will NOT be counted for points, qualification, or rankings.
- 2.8 (H/C) entries are not eligible for prize-giving, rosettes, prize money, or any form of ranking within the class.
- 2.9 (H/C) combinations entry fee is the same as for competitive entries.
- 2.10 If the rider registers for two (2) tests in the same level as competitor, after performing the first test the rider may request to perform the second test as (H/C) subject to the Ground Jury approval.

3. Prize Giving

- 3.1 Participation in the prize-giving ceremony is compulsory. Failure to do so entails losing the classification and prizes. Exception to this rule can only be granted by the Ground Jury or the Judge for the particular competition.
- 3.2 The distribution of prizes shall be stated in the competition's Schedule.
- 3.3 Prize-giving ceremony for each test. For instance, the prize-giving ceremony for Basic Level (Test 1) is separate than the prize-giving ceremony for Basic Level (Test 2).
- 3.4 A minimum of one (1) point per test (score 60% and above) is required to be eligible for prize-giving. Hence, combinations scoring 59.99% and below are not eligible for prize-giving.
- 3.5 When two combinations have the same final score, ties are broken as follows:
 - 3.5.1 The rider with the higher total for collective marks (the section at the end of the test regarding rider position, general impression, impulsion, etc.) is placed higher.
 - 3.5.2 If the collective marks are identical, the competitors are placed equally. Therefore, tied combinations receive the same placing, and any subsequent placing is skipped (for example: If two riders tie for 2nd place, the next placing awarded is 4th).

4. Entry Fees

Entry fee is per combination per test.

5. Elimination / Disqualification

5.1 Lameness.

In a case of marked lameness, the judge at C informs the athlete that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

5.2 Resistance.

Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds is punished by elimination. However, resistance that may endanger athlete, horse, officials or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within 20 seconds. This also applies to any resistance before entering the dressage arena.

5.3 Fall.

In the case of a fall of a horse and/or an athlete, the athlete will be eliminated.

- 5.3.1 An athlete is considered to have fallen when the athlete is separated from their horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting.
- 5.3.2 A horse is considered to have fallen when, at the same time, both its shoulder and quarters have touched the ground.

5.4 Leaving Arena During Dressage Test.

A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, during a dressage competition between beginning and end of the test will be eliminated.

5.5 Unauthorized Assistance.

- 5.5.1 Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. (earphone and/or electronic communication devices included) is considered as illegal or unauthorized assistance. Illegal or unauthorized assistance will result in elimination of that combination.
- 5.5.2 It is NOT allowed to let someone else warm up the horse other than its rider, this will lead to instant elimination.
- 5.5.3 Riders have the option to memorize their test, otherwise if they decide to have someone read their test, they must personally arrange it. Only reading is allowed, any tips or advice from the reader will lead to instant disqualification. Every exercise can only be repeated three (3) times by the reader, on the 4th time the combination receives -2 points on their scoring of the exercise.

5.6 Bleeding.

- 5.6.1 If the judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the judge through examination clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test.
- 5.6.2 If the steward discovers fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the warm-up, they inform the judge at C, who will eliminate the horse and the athlete from the warm-up.
- 5.6.3 If the steward discovers fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the judge at C, who will eliminate the horse and the athlete.

- 5.6.4 If the steward discovers fresh blood anywhere else on the horse's body (i.e. other than the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs) during the check at the end of the test, the athlete/horse combination is not automatically eliminated. The Chief Steward shall inform the judge at C whether the horse is fit to continue in following competition(s) in the event. The judge at C will take a decision on the horse's fitness to continue. If the judge at C decides the horse is not fit to continue, the horse will not be permitted to take part in any further competition(s) or tests at the Event, but the result(s) obtained by the athlete/horse combination in any competition(s) or tests already completed shall stand.

5.7 Wrong Equipment

Wrong Horse or Rider equipment leads to instant elimination.

5.8 Horse Unfair Handling

When an unfair handling towards the horse is noticed by an official, this will lead to instant elimination.

5.9 Not Showing on Time

All combinations who are not showing on time will be instantly disqualified.

5.10 Wrong Exercise

- 5.10.1 If the rider makes a direction mistake (wrong way) the penalty will be -2 points on their scoring of the exercise.
- 5.10.2 If the rider makes a direction mistake (wrong way) the second time, the penalty will be -4 points on their scoring of the exercise.
- 5.10.3 If the rider makes a direction mistake (wrong way) a third time during the test, then it leads to instant disqualification of the combination.

6. Rider's Equipment

- 6.1 Short riding jacket or coat, or a cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails. All colors allowed.
- 6.2 Tie, choker, stock tie or integrated stand-up collar in white or off-white.
- 6.3 Riding pants or leggings in white or off-white.
- 6.4 Approved safety equipment helmet, all colors allowed.
- 6.5 Riding gloves are allowed in all colors.
- 6.6 Only one whip, not longer than 120cm.
- 6.7 Spurs are allowed, not longer than 2cm, and must not be sharp.

7. Horse's Equipment

- 7.1 Bandages/leg protectors/hoof boots are only allowed in warm-up, they are not allowed in tests.
- 7.2 White or off-white saddle blankets.
- 7.3 Jumping saddle, recreation saddle or dressage saddle are allowed.
- 7.4 Martingale, side-reins, draw-reins, elastics or any sort of training equipment are not allowed.
- 7.5 Only a single / snaffle bridle is allowed. The double bridle is allowed starting from Advanced First Level.
- 7.6 Bits (please refer to the next page for FEI approved bits' chart).





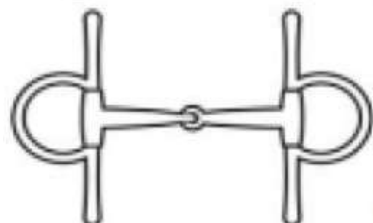
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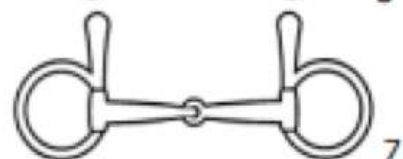
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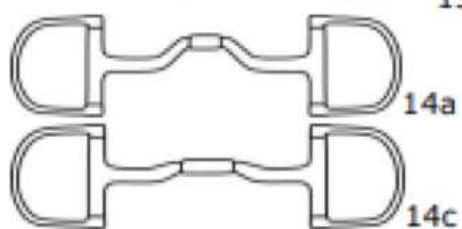
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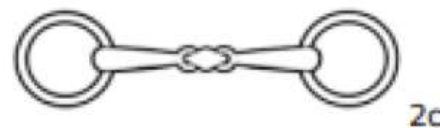
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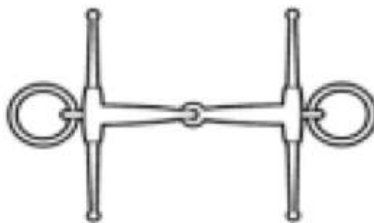
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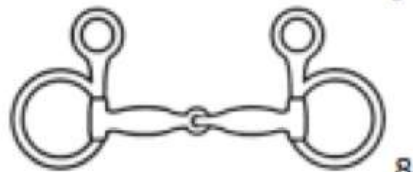
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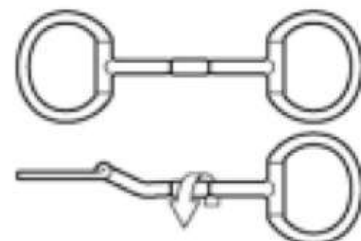
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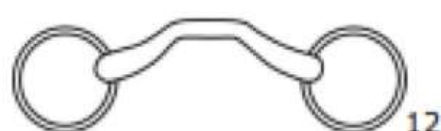
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