

Valley Oaks Chapter

California Dressage Society

2009 Officers:

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An Introduction

Hello everyone, my name is Michele Dodge, and I am a new Valley Oaks member. I have a small breeding ranch in Plymouth called Mystic Oak Ranch. A few years ago, I went through the USDF L program and passed with distinction. Some day, I hope to complete the qualifications to enter the “r” program.

I thought we could, with some group effort, revive the Chapter Newsletter, so I look forward to any feedback, articles, ideas, etc that members might have.

With the show season fast approaching, it seemed that a focus on new USEF Dressage rules would be an interesting topic! If anyone has other ideas, please contact me at MysticOak@amadorca.com.

The New Rules

Every year brings change, and 2009 is no different from prior years! In the dressage world, new FEI tests are upon us, although the national tests (Training Level through 4th Level) won't change this year.

USEF also passed some new rules that will affect some of us, and other rule change proposals are still in the discussion phase. Some highlights of the new rule changes that are in effect with the 2009 competition year are included here. I've added a few comments in “*italics*”.

The Dress Code (DR 120) now allows riders showing through First Level to wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. *This is great news – if you are just trying out a few classes, you won't have to go out and spend a fortune on expensive boots yet!*

Whip length is back to 47.2 inches (120 cm) – *which means we can dust off all those longer whips we hid away in the tack room a few years ago!*

Cooling vests may only be worn underneath a riding jacket with the following exception: If coats are waived, a white or very light solid-colored cooling vest may be worn over a riding shirt as specified in DR120.6. *If you were thinking of ordering a Cool Medics type vest, get a light colored one!*

Execution and Judging of Tests (DR 122) has not changed significantly except the definition of a “5” has been changed from “sufficient” to “**marginal**”.

Competition Licensing and Officials (DR 125) now requires for each competition day that a Dressage Competition schedules 300 or more rides (including Dressage and DSHB entries), the competition must have at least two Dressage Technical Delegates on

New Rules, continued:

duty. When only one competition ring is in session, only one Dressage Technical Delegate need be present on the grounds. Dressage Competitions holding both a national competition and a CDI must have a separate Dressage Technical Delegate in addition to the FEI Chief Dressage Steward. However, the number of CDI rides is not counted in the number of rides requiring an additional Dressage Technical Delegate. *This doesn't affect many of our shows since 300 rides in a single day means about five competition arenas going at once!*

Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of his/her intention to scratch (ie. is a "no show"). *This means, if you are late for your first ride and don't let show management know you are scratching, you may find you've lost your second ride time because show management scratched you from the competition. What isn't clear is whether you'd lose ride times on the next day in a multi-day show! Moral of this story – let show management know if you are scratching a ride.*

Those who show ponies, be aware that effective December 2009, if you do not submit a valid Measurement Certificate prior to the competition, show management will be required to have the pony measured by a USEF TD and the Competition Veterinarian.

General Rule (GR 1301) changes now emphasize it is the competitors responsibility to submit copies of all membership documentation to show management, and if the competition can not verify membership, the competitor will have to pay a \$30 non-member fee. *My take on this is, better be safe than broke – submit copies of all your membership cards, horse recordings,*

The rules discussed in this article are already passed by USEF and in effect.