

GVDS DRESSAGE SHOW FAQ's 2022

Warm-up and Lunging Arena Protocols

1. You must have your exhibitor number on you or your horse when moving around the show grounds, and when you enter the warm-up arena. The gate steward will ask for your number to mark their rider sheet.
2. For insurance purposes, only you or your identified trainer on your entry form may ride your horse on the show grounds and in the warm up arena.
3. Be alert, and if approaching another rider straight on, always move to your right so "left hands meet". It is ok to speak up, such as "rail please", or "passing to the inside."
4. For safety reasons, there is a separate lunging area other than the warm up riding arena.
5. Since the warm up arena is not a safe place for instructors or trainers to be walking around, only mounted riders will be allowed in it. Your helper must remain outside the fence.
6. It is OK to ask the gate steward to keep the gate closed if it is not, and you are concerned about it.
7. **During the show hours, horses are not be turned out loose in the warm up arena or lunging arena**

Show Arena Protocols

1. **A. Schooling Shows / Recognized show**– The area around the show arena is open for participants to **HAND WALK** their horse before the first rider, during the lunch break, announced long breaks, and at the conclusion of the last ride. (Announcement will be made once arena is groomed and available.)
Participants should not ride or walk inside the show arena.
2. If the gate steward confirms you are the next rider to show, it is OK to wait outside the arena, at least 15 feet from the judge's box and just outside the entry to the arena. Ask the gate steward if you are not sure exactly where to wait.
3. As soon as the rider salutes the judge at the **END** of the ridden test right before you, you may then immediately go in to arena area to **warm up around the outside of the dressage ring.**
4. When the judge is ready for you to begin, they will blow a whistle, or ring a bell. You then have **45** seconds to enter the arena and begin your test.
5. You can have someone read your test instructions for you, but they can only read the test movements and are not allowed to coach or give other instructions/advice.
6. If the judge rings the bell/whistle while you are riding you have missed a movement. Listen to the judge's instructions as to where to re-start the ride. This will be a point deduction.
7. Pick up your test from an office worker, who will sign off for you in the show office once the scores are posted on the bulletin board outside the show office. Every test you ride will be scored with comments on your ride.

Tack and Rider Attire

1. GVDS recommends that all riders wear protective headgear. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet that meets or exceeds ASTM/SEI standards for safety and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. **USEF, RMDS Recognized show participants must wear Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet that meets or exceeds ASTM/SEI standards for safety and carries the SEI tag. That is secures and properly fitted. All riders in English tack are required to wear protective headgear. Riders in Non-Western tack that chose to not wear protective headgear are required to sign a waiver.** The Fairgrounds also requires helmet waivers. Boots are required for all shows. Saddles and bridles should be for the type of class you are showing in –Western saddle and bridle for the Western classes and English saddle and bridle for all the other ridden dressage classes. **Check USEF rules when in doubt. Also, since attire and boot regulations have changed, please check USEF rules for definitions of what is now acceptable.**
2. See the USEF Equipment rules for acceptable bits. Except for the Western classes and the Third Level tests and above, bits should be a snaffle with no curb action. Check the rule book if you have questions.