



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF

Check List for Freestyle Riders

Read and Know the Rules!

Before you sign up for a freestyle make sure to read the USDF Freestyle Rules and Guidelines. USDF Freestyles Training through Fourth Level follow USEF Dressage rules. Most Freestyle rules are under **DR 129 Musical Freestyle**.

Quick Check List for Freestyle

- Your music should be saved in either MP3 or WAV format.
- The CD/file should have only the freestyle ride on it. It should be clearly labeled with the competitor's name, horse's name, and level of ride.
- Always bring an extra copy of the music to the competition. Mark it in the same way as the original, plus some additional notation indicating that it is a backup copy. **ALWAYS HAVE IT READILY AVAILABLE.**
- Consult the competition prize list for information about sound checks and to whom the CD should go.
- Make sure to go to the sound check! Check the music near the judge's stand and at the farthest end of the arena. Make sure the judge can hear the music but that it is not so loud that the judge will not be able to communicate with their scribe or that the music is distorted.
- If there is a problem with the music during the test, the rider should immediately approach the judge at "C" to discuss options for restarting their test. The judge or announcer may not know that there is something wrong with your music. This could include the announcer playing the wrong music, the music skipping or the sound system failing. Ask permission to stop the test as soon as you noticed any issue with the music. Reference USEF DR 129.6d below. You will not be allowed to re ride the test if you do not stop the test prior to the end. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.**

USEF Rules Freestyle Riders Need to Know:

- **Reference DR129.6a:** Music is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the competitor to select the appropriate music for the ride and provide the music in the format(s), method(s), and time frame specified in the prize list. Formats must include CDs and/or digital files (MP3 and/or WAV)
- **Reference DR129.6b:** Sound checks must be provided to riders in Freestyle classes for no fee, either on the day prior to competition or prior to their scheduled class. The requirements and timetable for scheduling sound checks must be published in the prize list.
- **Reference DR129.6c:** Each rider will be permitted one representative who may communicate with the person responsible for handling the music to supervise the handling of the music if so desired by the competitor.
- **Reference DR 129.6d:** In case of rider's music failing before or during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no backup system, the rider can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or start at a later time. . If there is a problem with the music, the rider should immediately approach the judge at "C" to discuss options for restarting their test. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The rider may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.