# Dressage Rules

Rules 2026

## Preamble

The 7 NATIONS DRESSAGE CHALLENGE (7N) is an initiative to promote and support the Dressage Discipline at entry level in Sub-Saharan Africa as a parallel, complementary and supportive product to the FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CHALLENGE (FEI DWC) whose entry level of participation does not cater for the lower levels. **This competition has therefore been designed to create the base for ultimate promotion to the FEI DWC levels**. Further, its formation creates the foundations necessary to sustain and to ensure the longevity and future pool of athletes for the FEI DWC and higher competition.

The competition will be held between 1st January to 31st December of each year between the National Federations of FEI Zone 7, these being:
BOTSWANA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, eSWATINI, ZAMBIA, NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE.
This competition will run **concurrently** with the FEI DWC, run on the same day or alternate day with the provision that the 7 NATIONS Challenge is run after the FEI DWC classes and in accordance with the FEI Rules with some exceptions.
In Summary:

- Leverages off FEI DWC
- Promotes and develops the entry level
- Secures the future feed for FEI DWC
- Open to all 7 Nations in Zone 7
- Team Rankings
- Individual Rankings

## Rules

**1. INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE DEADLINE**

All NF's must have submitted their intention to participate in the ensuing year no later than 1 October of each year. The deadline for participation is 1 November of each year. Should a NF declare their intention to participate without a follow-up confirmation by 1 November then the intent to participate becomes the Confirmation of participation.

**2. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

By entering the 7 NATIONS DRESSAGE CHALLENGE, each National Federation agrees to all expenses incurred by themselves in this competition

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**3. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STARTERS AND RESTRICTION ON STARTERS**

This event, 7 Nations Challenge, is open to a maximum of **40** starters (Tests Judged) **IN TOTAL** including **both** FEI DWC and 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE entries. Priority will be given to FEI DWC horse/rider combinations. If the number of starters is less than 40, the competition may be held on the same day.

3.1. More than 40 starters: In the event of more than 40 starters, NFs may make a special request to the President of the Ground Jury in order to increase the number of starters. This request must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the Event. If run concurrently with the World Challenge, then the Show Organising Committee must spread the competition over two days and have the Challenge classes on one day and the 7 Nations on the other.

3.2. In the event the NF has more than 40 starters, a restriction of one horse/rider combination per class will be brought in to give equal opportunity. This restriction will work as follows:

3.2.1. The 7N horse/rider combination will be restricted to one Class thereafter

3.2.2. The 7N rider will be restricted to one horse. This restriction does not include the DWC horse. Should an exceptional circumstance arise, then the decision of the NF will determine the outcome of the starting list

**4. STARTERS**

4.1. A DWC rider takes preference and may enter as many times and in as many formats as is allowed by the DWC rule.

4.2. A DWC horse and rider combination who has entered and started in the DWC may not enter and start in the 7 NATIONS. A horse who has started in the FEI DWC may not enter the 7 Nations Challenge. 4.3 A DWC Rider who has entered and started in the DWC may enter the 7 NATIONS on a different horse.

4.3. A rider, at the discretion of the NF, may enter more than one horse in the 7 Nations competition. A horse may only be entered for a maximum of two tests per day.

4.4. A /rider who is selected for the team and rides more than one horse must declare the team horse and this horse needs to be ridden first.

4.5. If a horse/rider combination are selected for the team and the team rider is riding another horse, the horse selected for the team must be ridden first.

4.6. A horse/rider combination who have been entered in 2 tests must ride the test that counts for the team result first.

4.7. Mandatory Upgrade:

4.7.1. If a horse/rider combination has scored 70 percent and above once in a grade

4.7.2. If a horse/rider has scored 65 to 69.999 percent twice in the same grade

**5. SCRATCHINGS**

If entrants withdraw their entry after the closing date of the competition, the scratching must be accompanied by a valid Veterinary letter or recognized Doctor letter. Alternatively, a scratching penalty fee will be levied being the horses total entry fee or according to Rules and Regulations of the National Federation.

**6. HORSE INSPECTION**

All Horses / Ponies in both FEI DWC and 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE must be presented at the scheduled DWC horse inspection with identification – passports and required vaccination certificates (in accordance with their NF rules).

6.1. Horses with invalid passports will not be allowed to start.

6.2. FEI DWC horses to be given priority order at the horse inspection, this at the discretion of the NF.

**7. MINIMUM AGE OF HORSES AND PONIES**

7.1. 6 years of age for the Preliminary, Novice and Elementary.

7.2. The age of horses for FEI competitions in the Southern Hemisphere is calculated from August 1st of the year of birth.

7.3. Only riders of 16yrs + may ride a 5 year old horse in the Preliminary, Novice and Elementary tests

**8. THE TESTS**

Tests for 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE will be:

8.1. Preliminary LEVEL - FEI Childrens Preliminary Test A 2022

8.2. The Novice LEVEL - FEI Childrens Preliminary Test B 2022

8.3. Elementary LEVEL - FEI Medium Test 2011

All FEI DWC tests must be ridden before 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE tests

**9. DRESS AND SADDLERY**

As per FEI Dressage World Challenge Rules

**10. EXCEPTIONS (Ridden Test exceptions to FEI DWC Rules solely for the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE)**

10.1. Trot movements may be ridden in sitting or rising trot

10.2. Spurs are optional

10.3. Whips may be carried

10.4. A caller may be used

➔ **THE PGJ (Foreign Judge) WILL JUDGE THE TECHNICAL MARKS AT C AND THE NATIONAL JUDGE WILL JUDGE THE QUALITY MARKS AT E**

➔ **ELEMENTARY LEVEL TEST MUST BE RIDDEN IN SITTING TROT**

**11. AGE GROUPS**:

11.1 Children – Under 12 Years of age

The competition is open to all children under the age of 12, up to and including the end of the calendar year in which they reach their 11th birthday)

11.2 Young Rider – 12 years to 16 years of age

The competition is open to this age group from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach their 12th birthday to the end of the calendar year in which they reach their 16th birthday)

11.3 Seniors – 17 years and over

**12. MOUNTED PRIZE GIVING:**

12.1 Prize giving is compulsory. With permission from the PGJ an athlete may be excused from attending prize giving.

12.2 The NF must give at least 1st, 2nd and 3rd Rosettes to each Ranking Group on the day of the show for their Individual NF

**13. THE GROUND JURY**

13.1. National Federations are responsible for appointing two Judges.

13.2. The Ground Jury must be composed of a President, who must be an FEI Foreign Judge, Level1/2*, plus a "Certified" National Judge.

13.3. The Foreign Judge must be from the region, but is limited to 3 consecutive years as per FEI Dressage World Challenge Rules.

13.4. There is no obligation to appoint the same PGJ for the 7 Nations competition but National Federations will endeavour to use the same PGJ where possible.

**14. RESULTS AND RANKING**

14.1. Following the Horse Inspection/Trot-Up the NF has to select and declare a 7 Nations Team.

14.2. An Athlete and/or a Horse or athlete/horse combination can only be nominated once for the Team Classification.

14.3. Once nominated, the names of the Team members cannot be changed and must be submitted to **fei.group.ix@gmail.com** and cc Madelein Champion **madeleinc@gmail.com** directly after the draw for the starting order, BEFORE THE START OF THE COMPETITION

**15. TEAMS**

15.1. A team has to consist of 4 riders, with the lowest percentage as the dropped score. If a NF can only field a team of 3, there will be no dropped score.

15.2. Test coefficients as follows

15.2.1. Elementary 1.2

15.2.2. Novice 1.1

15.2.3. Preliminary 1.0

15.3. The result will be derived from the combined scores of both Judges.

15.4. To qualify for the team, a rider must be a fully registered member of the NF. Riders who hold a temporary license or registration of the NF may not qualify for the team score.

15.5. The 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE Individual Winners will be awarded for each Age Group in the following:

15.5.1. The Preliminary Class

15.5.2. The Novice Class

15.5.3. The Elementary Class

15.6. The result will be derived from the combined scores of both Judges.
(Individual **NF** Rankings for winners/placings in each class and ranking will be determined the same way as in DWC/NF ranking – by both judges)

**16. Organizing Committees RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINAL SCORES**

16.1. Each NF must appoint a person responsible for all classifications. All final scores for the DWC will be forwarded to the FEI according to DWC Article 8.

16.2. All Final scores (on FEI Score Sheets) for all participants of the 7 Nations Challenge AND DWC must be forwarded within 48 hours of the end of the competition to: fei.group.ix@gmail.com and to the participating Nations for confirmation by all NFs of the Finals. FEI Group IX will appoint a person responsible to tabulate the overall scores and rankings. These will then become the official published rankings for the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE**.**