



Dressage Rules

Rules 2025

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

3. 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.** In the event of more than 40 starters, NFs may make a special request to the President of the Ground Jury 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.

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.

4.4 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.

4.7 A horse/rider combination who is selected for the team and rides more than one horse, must ride the horse that is selected for the team, first.

4.8 Mandatory Upgrade:

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

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

5. RESTRICTION ON STARTERS

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:

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

6. SCRATCHINGS

After the closing date of the competition, must be accompanied by a valid Veterinary letter or recognized Doctor letter. Alternatively, a scratching penalty fee will be levied being the horse's total entry fee or according to Rules and Regulations of the National Federation.

7. 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). Horses with invalid passports will not be allowed to start.

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

8. Age of Horses/Ponies

Horses/ponies may compete if they are a minimum of:

5 years old for Preliminary Class (*Senior Riders only – age 16 +*)

6 years old for Novice class and Elementary Class

9. The Tests

Tests for 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE will be:

9.1 Preliminary Class – FEI Children's Preliminary Test A 2022

9.2 The Novice Class - FEI Children's Preliminary Test B 2022

9.3 Elementary Level – FEI Medium Test 2011

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

10. Dress and Saddlery

As per FEI Dressage World Challenge Rules

11. Exceptions

(Ridden Test exceptions to FEI DWC Rules solely for the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE)

✓ Trot movements may be ridden in sitting or rising trot

✓ spurs are optional

✓ whips may be carried

✓ A caller may be used

ELEMENTARY LEVEL TEST MUST BE RIDDEN IN SITTING TROT

12. AGE GROUPS:

12.1 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)

12.2 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)

12.3 Seniors – 17 years and over

13. MOUNTED PRIZE GIVING:

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

13.2 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

14. THE GROUND JURY

National Federations are responsible for appointing two Judges.

14.1 This Ground Jury must be composed of a President, who must be an FEI Foreign Judge **Level1/2***, and who, as much as possible, should be from the region. *In the event there is no judge available from the region, Federations may request the FEI for a judge outside of the region."*

14.2 The second member of the Ground jury must be a "Certified" National or Regional Judge.

14.3 *In their competition organisation, participating Federations should attempt, where possible, to appoint the same foreign judge in the same year.*

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.*

15 Results & Rankings

Determination of the **TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL RANKING WINNERS**

15.1 The 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE TEAM result will be determined as follows:

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

15.1.2 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.

15.2 Following the Horse Inspection/Trot-Up NF designates a 7 Nations Team. An Athlete and/or a Horse or athlete/horse combination, can only be nominated once for the Team Classification. Once nominated, the names of the Team members cannot be changed and must be submitted to fei.group.ix@gmail.com directly after the draw for the starting order.

15.3 Teams 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.

The Team must include:

The team may consist of any of the three 7 Nations tests.

Scores obtained at higher technical levels will have a higher coefficient as follows:

Elementary 1.2 (i.e. % x 1.2)

Novice 1.1 (i.e. % x 1.1)

Preliminary 1.0

15.4 The 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE INDIVIDUAL Winners will be awarded for each Age Group in the following:

15.4.1 The Preliminary Class

15.4.2 The Novice Class

15.4.3 The Elementary Class

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**.