

# Arena

## 65. Layout

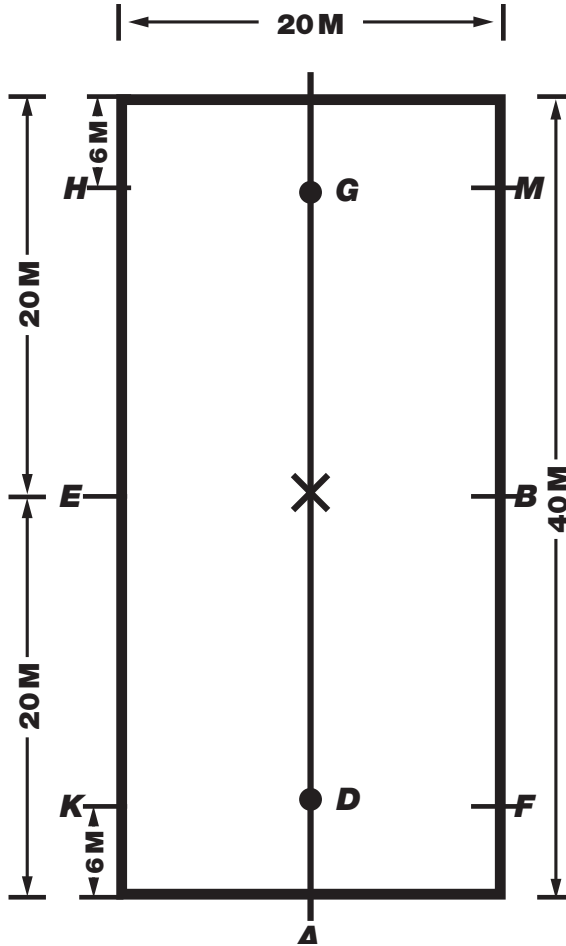
Arenas should be set out to the dimensions shown in the diagrams on pages 37 and 38.

The arena should be level and separated from the public by a distance all round of 15 metres for international competitions and of at least 10 metres for other events if more room is not available. Adjacent arenas should be a minimum of 5 metres apart and preferably 10 metres. Roping should be used when necessary to prevent intrusion. The arenas may be marked in the following ways:

- a) By a continuous surround of white boards.
- b) By intermittent white boards placed at each corner and opposite each marker.
- c) By a white line painted on the ground, in which case white posts 3 feet high should be placed at the corners of the arena.
- d) By ropes but where ropes are used to mark the arena, at least six breaking points must be incorporated in case of accidents.

The centre line should be marked by a mown strip with the letters indicated either by a mown line across the centre line, or some discreet form of marking, which should not cause a horse to shy. In the case of artificial surfaces a centre line and other markings should be rolled.

Plan of 20 x 40 arena

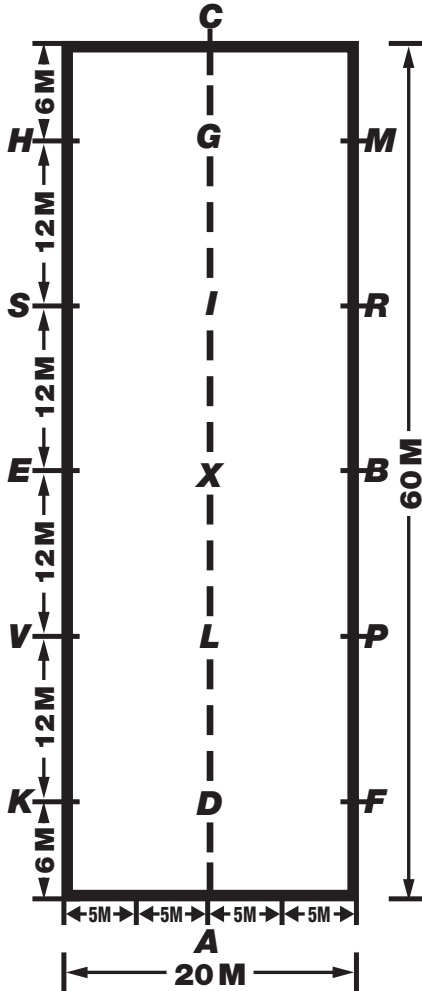


Arena

The length of the diagonal from corner to corner is 44.72 m

# Arena *(continued)*

Plan of 20 x 60 arena



The length of the diagonal from corner to corner is 63.25 m



## 66. Markers

The outer markers must be clearly visible with the letters displayed in black or white. They may be placed about 50cms outside the arena. Pegs between 1ft and 2ft in length may be placed close to the outside of the arena boards, showing not less than 6" above them, opposite each outside marker. When the arena is delineated only by a white line, the pegs must be placed 6" outside this line. A gap of about one metre each side of the centre line must be left at A to form an entrance and the A marker placed far enough back, 10 metres if possible, to allow horses to enter the arena on a straight track. When the arena is delineated by white lines two sticks should be placed one metre each side of the centre line at A, to mark the entrance.

## 67. Inspection of arenas

It is the ultimate responsibility of judges to check that the arena is satisfactory and have it modified at their discretion.



## Riding the Tests

### 68. Competitors' conduct

Riders and owners of competing horses and their assistants must, under penalty of elimination, obey any order or direction given to them by any official and they must, in particular, be careful not to do anything liable to upset or hinder the progress of the competition.

### 69. Competitors' responsibility/declarations

On arrival at a competition, all riders must declare their intention to compete. In addition, they must report to the steward for the appropriate arena at least fifteen minutes before their allotted time. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they arrive at the arena at the correct time for their test.

### 70. Riding the wrong test

A rider who starts the wrong test for the class may be allowed to restart the test (at the Judges discretion) so long as they can do so immediately. They will be penalised for a first error of course.

### 71. Numbers

All horses must wear a number which can be obtained from the Dressage Office. Riders must show their number to the writer before starting the test. If the writer cannot see the number the rider will be asked at the end of the test. Competitors without a number will be given a verbal warning. Horses attending affiliated competitions should wear their competition number at all times when they are being ridden or exercised.

### 72. Riding in Collecting Ring or practice areas/arenas

In order to extend courtesy to other riders and to prevent accidents, it is customary to practise the following conduct:

- a) Pass left hand to left hand when meeting another rider coming in the opposite direction unless he/she is in counter canter in which case you should give way by circling.
- b) Make tack adjustments outside the arena if possible or near the middle of the arena but without obstructing the diagonal or centre lines.
- c) Announce that you intend to enter an indoor practice area to avoid an accident.
- d) Ensure your whip is not so long that it could upset a passing horse.
- e) Do not halt or walk in the outside track but always leave room for other riders to pass.
- f) Do not lunge in practice areas without the permission of the Organiser and only if there is sufficient room so as not to cause inconvenience to other riders.
- g) Trainers or other pedestrians should not stand in the collecting rings or practice areas/arenas.
- h) Riders with impaired vision may wear a white armband whilst warming up as an indication to other riders

### 73. Commanders

- a) Commanders may be used in all classes except Area Festivals, all Championships and Selection Trials. However organisers who do not wish to allow commanders at their shows, must state this in the Schedules.
- b) Where Commanders are allowed it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text or extracts therefrom are read out and that there is no emphasis on any part of the command. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination.



- c) Repetition of any part of the text may incur an error of course if used to redirect a competitor in process of making such an error.
- d) Dispensation must be granted by BD for the use of headsets and will only be permitted for use when an adult is stood next to the caller to ensure that only words from the tests are used. See rule 79.
- e) Commanders may be introduced partway through the test at the Judges discretion
- f) Commanders may not stand inside the arena.
- g) Two Commanders may be used for Blind Riders. See Rule 171a for special Rules for competitions run under FEI Para Rules.
- h) For tests ridden under FEI rules please refer to the FEI Rule Book.
- i) Commanders should be courteous when multiple arenas are running and position themselves to avoid disturbing other riders.

#### **74. Outside assistance**

Any outside assistance by voice, or signs, etc. designed to help a competitor improve their performance during a test will entail elimination.

#### **75. Penalties for contravening rules**

Anyone entering the arena with incorrect saddlery, dress or equipment, for the appointed Class, or in any other way not complying with the Rules will be notified by the Judge that they have been eliminated from the class after they have finished the test.

N.B. These rules may vary under Eventing, Riding Club and Pony Club Rules. Please refer to the relevant Rule Book.

#### **76. Stewards**

A Steward may be appointed to check that all saddlery and equipment comply with the rules, but it is the ultimate responsibility of competitors to ensure that they comply with the rules.

If the bit in use is in question the trainer/groom can be asked to open the horses mouth (this can be done before or after the test at the riders discretion). Alternatively the bridle can be removed following the test. In the event of the bit proving to be not permitted the horse will be eliminated from the competition.

#### **77. Entering arena before the signal to start**

Under normal circumstances no horse either ridden or led may enter any arena, other than the practice arena, except when actually competing in a contest, on penalty of elimination. Competitors must wait until the Judge has sounded the horn, rung the bell or in some way signified that he/she may start, before entering the arena. Once the signal has been given competitors have 45 seconds to enter the arena at 'A'. Entering before the signal to start or failure to start within 45 seconds will result in a 2 mark penalty per Judge being awarded.

Where the class is held on an artificial surface and or the construction of the arena makes it impossible for the competitor to ride round the outside, before the judge's signal to enter is sounded, he/she may, on the instruction of the Organiser, ride inside the area. Where a 40m x 20m arena has been created within a 60m x 20m arena the competitor should be permitted to ride in the entire arena. Depending on the circumstances, riders have the option of entering at A from the inside or outside the arena.

It is not permitted to enter any part (in or around) the competition arena during a break or whilst the Judge is not present.



## Riding the Tests *(continued)*

### 78. Execution of test

All movements must follow one another in the order laid down in the Test. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it is at the moment when the rider's body is above the point that the movement is executed. All tests will be ridden with both hands except where stated otherwise on the test sheets. In all tests, up to and including Elementary, transitions may be progressive except where stated otherwise on the test sheets; in simple changes the upward transition is always direct.

A competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement or put in an extra circle or loop, unless the Judge decides that an error of course has been made, and sounds the horn or bell. If, however, the rider has started a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the Judge must consider the first movement only and, at the same time, penalise for an error of course. A rider who starts the wrong test for the class will be allowed to restart at the Judge's discretion as long as they can do so immediately. They will be penalised as a first error of course.

### 79. Dispensation

Any rider with a physical disability which prevents him/her from riding the test in accordance with the rules should apply to the Dispensation Committee through the Dressage Office for a Dispensation Certificate. Riders applying for dispensation for a permanent disability must be formally classified by a qualified IPEC/RDA classifier. On entering the competition, the rider should send a copy of the Dispensation Certificate to the organiser who should pass it on to the relevant judge. Such competitors must be capable of riding in and competing in the facilities as provided for all British Dressage members.

If the applicant disagrees with the verdict of the Dispensation Committee they may apply for an Appeals Committee to reconsider their case. Only riders who have been classified by a qualified IPEC/RDA International/National Classifier, within Grade I-IV, will be granted dispensation for three years. Any improvement or deterioration in the Riders condition should be reported to the BD Office.

### 80. Salute

Competitors must take the reins and whip, if carried, in one hand. The free hand should be lowered to the rider's side and the rider should nod their head. Gentlemen may salute in the same manner, or, if they wish, they may remove and lower their hat with their free hand before nodding.

### 81. Sitting and rising

For all tests at elementary level and below used at British Dressage competitions trot work may be executed sitting or rising.

At medium level and above all trot work must be executed sitting.

**For National Young Horses tests: in 4 and 5 year old classes trot work may be ridden sitting or rising. In 6 year old classes, trot must be ridden sitting except lengthened strides which may be ridden rising.**

**All trot work in FEI tests, including Young Horse tests, is sitting except where it is specifically marked otherwise.**

### 82. Leaving the arena

Riders must leave the arena (after the final salute) at walk on a long rein at an appropriate place. Under National Rules, a horse is eliminated if, during a Test, it leaves the arena when the surround is continuous and 9 in. high or more. Where the surround is less than 9 in. and is marked by boards or similar, no marks shall be given for the movement when the horse places all four feet outside the arena. Where the arena is marked by a line only or intermittent boards, it is left to the discretion of the Judges as to the marks deducted. Any horse leaving the arena not under control will be eliminated. The Test begins when the horse enters at A and finishes when it moves off from the final salute.



### 83. Dismounting and/or fall off horse

If, after the rider has entered the arena, he/she dismounts without a reason acceptable to the Judges, no marks will be given for the movement. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider, the combination will be retired immediately from that test but can ride in future tests should the rider declare they are fit to continue.

### 84. Resistance

- a) Any horse failing to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded will have a 2 mark penalty per Judge awarded. Prolonged failure to enter for significantly more than 45 seconds may lead to elimination.
- b) Any horse refusing to continue the test for a period of 20 consecutive seconds during the course of a test shall be eliminated.

### 85. Grinding teeth and tail swishing

Grinding the teeth and swishing the tail may be signs of nervousness, tenseness, or resistance on the part of the horse and can be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movements concerned as well as in the appropriate collective mark at the end.

### 86. Voice

The use of the voice is prohibited and will be penalised by the loss of two marks from those that would have been awarded for each movement in which this occurred.

### 87. Errors of Course

When a competitor makes an 'error of course' (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc.) the Judge at C warns him, by sounding the bell. The Judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an 'error of course', the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance – for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of at K, or, cantering up the centre line from A, makes a pirouette at D instead of at L – it is up to the Judge to decide whether to sound the bell or not. In fairness to the competitor, it is recommended that the bell should be rung when a movement is executed at the wrong marker, if there is the possibility of a similar mistake when the movement is repeated on the other rein. If the combination does not enter at A in a freestyle test, two marks should be deducted.

If the judge for any reason does not realise until the competitor has left the arena that one or more movements have been omitted he must:

- a) Adjust as necessary the position of his marks and comments on his sheet to accord with the movements actually performed.
- b) Give to each of the movements not executed a mark equal to the average of the collective marks entered at the bottom of his sheet (averaged to the nearest whole number, .5 to be rounded upwards).
- c) Record the penalty for error of course.

### 88. Penalties for errors of course

Every 'error of the course', whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised:

- the first time by 2 points
- the second time by 4 points
- the third time the competitor is eliminated, although he may continue his performance to the end, the marks being awarded in the ordinary way.



## 89. Errors of the test

When a competitor makes an 'error of the test' (trots rising instead of sitting, at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc.) he must be penalised as for an 'error of course'. The judge should put a star against the movement concerned and mark for an error at the bottom of the sheet. In principle a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the President of the Jury decides on an error of course and sounds the bell. If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judges must consider the first movement shown only, and at the same time penalise for an error of course (see rule 88).

If the Jury has not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt. The penalty points are deducted on each Judge's sheet from the total points given to the competitor.

## 90. Time

The approximate time given on each national test sheet is for guidance only. Time penalties are not awarded under British Dressage or F.E.I. Rules except for Freestyle Tests – (see rule 27).

## 91. Lameness

In the case of marked lameness, the Senior Officiating Judge informs the rider that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against the decision. If there are any doubts as to the soundness of a horse, the competitor will be allowed to complete the test and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that a horse with loss of use is fit to compete.

## 92. Scoring – method

Each Judge will allot from 0-10 points for each numbered movement. These marks are then added together and any penalty marks are deducted. It is essential that all penalty marks are deducted from the individual totals before these are added together.

Under both F.E.I. and British Dressage Rules the Judges' marks are totalled to find the final mark. In the event of equality of total marks, the collective marks should be added together and the horse with the higher collective marks shall take the higher placing. If the total of the collective marks is also equal the horses concerned shall be given the same placing, and grading points in accordance with that percentage.

## 93. Scale of marks

Under both F.E.I. and British Dressage Rules the scale of Marks is as follows:

10	Excellent	4	Insufficient
9	Very Good	3	Fairly Bad
8	Good	2	Bad
7	Fairly Good	1	Very Bad
6	Satisfactory	0	Not Executed
5	Sufficient		

The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use. By "not executed" is meant that nothing which is required has been performed.

## 94. Judges' sheets

Score sheets, one per horse per Judge, will be required and may be purchased from the British Dressage office.

N.B. These tests are protected by copyright. Photocopying is not permitted. Legal action will be taken against offenders.



When judges have sanctioned their distribution, competitors are allowed to collect their sheets.

Competitors taking part in two dressage classes on the same day judged by the same judge, shall not have access to their judging/score sheets before competing in the second contest.

Judges' score sheets with remarks duly signed by the judge, must be treated as confidential until given to the competitor, when they become his or her private property. The organisers of a competition are not obliged to make public any figures other than the total marks and percentage score awarded and the classification of results, though they are at liberty to do so should they wish.

## 95. Judges' decision final

In all cases the Judges' decision is final.

- a) Any complaint against a Judge must be made in writing to the British Dressage Office not later than fourteen days after the relevant competition or incident.
- b) The Judges Sub-Committee shall investigate any complaint or query, giving details to the Judge concerned, who may reply prior to, or at the time of the investigation.
- c) The Board of British Dressage upon giving reasons may re-test any Judge, or remove him/her from the Official Panel. If deemed necessary complaints may be forwarded to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- d) Any Judge, subject to investigation will be suspended until their hearing.

## 96. Competitors cautioned by judges

- a) In addition to the powers conferred on him by these rules, the Judge is authorised to caution a competitor as to his conduct at an affiliated show. All such cautions must be reported to the Chief Executive in the following form:

*"I have to report that the .....Show, on ....(date), I had occasion to caution ... (name) as to his conduct in accordance with Rule 96....(Signature of Judge)"*

- b) On receipt of a second report of cautioning in respect of the same member within a period of three calendar years, the Chief Executive will call for a full report of the incident which gave rise to the second caution and may refer this to the DSC of British Dressage as a specific case of misconduct. The DSC will be advised of any previous cautioning under this rule.

## 97. Objections

Only the owner, his agent or the rider of a horse taking part in a competition may lodge an objection. Objections must be made to the Secretary of the Competition. They must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of £25, not later than 1 hour after the final results are put onto the scoreboard. The Senior dressage Judge present should adjudicate whenever possible. If this is not possible the objection should immediately be referred to the Dressage Office for consideration by the Disciplinary sub-committee.

The deposit is forfeited unless the objection is upheld or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for the lodging of an objection. Where an objection is related to a scoring error, the competitor must notify the organiser within 24 hours of the result being published, if a change needs to be made or a possible qualification registered.

