



British Dressage PARA Dressage Competition Guide

Great Britain is world leading in Para-equestrian dressage. The competitions that we run have played a key role in our success to date and to be able to sustain our position as World Number One, we need the support of venues. Hopefully this guide will go some way to demystifying Para Dressage.

Although the number of para classes may seem daunting to have running at one show, Para Shows are easy to run when you understand the process. As there are fewer Para Riders than you may realise so you should try and run your Para Classes alongside able-bodied classes to make it viable for you. The Judges are always a minimum of List 4 for Bronze Shows and List 3 for the Silver and Gold Classes so you have a fair amount of scope to ask the Judge to also judge an able bodied class.

Although the Para rules may seem quite complicated, it is the responsibility of the riders to compete by the rules and the Para Judge to ensure that rules are adhered to and not the organiser.

Grading & Rider groups

As of January 2017 PARA Dressage has introduced new Grades and new dressage tests

Old Grade (pre 2017)	New Grade (1 st Jan 2017)
Grade 1a	Grade I
Grade 1b	Grade II
Grade II	Grade III
Grade III	Grade IV
Grade IV	Grade V

PARA Dressage runs parallel to the competition structure of Bronze / Silver & Gold and has 5 rider groups determining which sections they are eligible for.

- **Group A** - Riders who have competed in a CPEDI**** (European / World / Paralympic) after 1st April 2004; full members on registered horses.
- **Group B** – Riders who have competed in a CPEDI*** after 1st April 2013; full members on registered horses.
- **Group C** – Riders who have competed in a CPEDI ** and / or BD PARA Equestrian Gold Championship after April 1st 2013; full members on registered horses.
- **Group D** – Riders who have competed at a BD PARA Equestrian Silver Championship and / or CPEDI* after April 1 2013; full members on registered horses.
- **Group E** – Riders who have not competed at a BD PARA Equestrian Silver or Gold Championships since April 1 2013 or have won points in a PARA Equestrian Novice level test; full or associate members on registered or associate registered horses.

All groups are eligible to compete in Gold Championships. Qualified combinations in Groups C–E are eligible to compete in Bronze & Silver Championships.

- Bronze (PARA Intro) Championships are for PARA group Riders E
- Silver (Restricted) Championships are for PARA Group Riders C – E
- Gold (Open) Championships are open to all PARA Group Riders who have qualified and who hold FEI Classification

Classification

There are two types of Classification – National & FEI.

- National Classification is done through the RDA and allows PARA riders the opportunity to compete in all BD PARA competitions and also compete at a Bronze and Silver Championship. To compete at a Gold Championship a rider must have an FEI Classification.
- FEI Classification is International classification –FEI Classifications can only be carried out at CPEDI's (International Competitions) there are 2 dates per year at Home International shows (Hartpury and Bishop Burton). To apply for International classification contact the Para Officer. Internationally classified riders can then ride at any level but also in Gold Championships and qualify for CPEDI.

Master Classification List

Classification Details

Riders with National Classification must carry their current card / letter with them in case of any query and it is the rider's responsibility to ensure their cards are correct and current and any dispensation aids are listed. Riders failing to submit their classification cards with their entry will have their entry rejected.

Tack for PARA Equestrian Competition.

- Permitted tack is in accordance with FEI PARA – Equestrian rules, adapted / modified tack or equipment must be approved on the riders FEI / RDA Classification letter.
- All riders can carry one whip even at a Championship. A rider can only carry two whips when it is listed on their Classification.
- All grades may use double bridles and neck straps are permitted in all PARA – Equestrian competitions.

It is the responsibility of the Para Judge to ensure that all riders are competing using permitted tack and equipment.

Visually Impaired riders

- All visually impaired riders must wear a white arm band when warming up for their test.
- Where background music is being played and the rider requires a caller, it is permitted for the music to be turned off so that the rider may clearly hear the caller.

B1 – Grade IV .

1. Before beginning the test, blind riders should be provided with the opportunity by the Judge to ride a circuit of the arena on both reins, including one change of rein. If the bell for the start has not rung, the rider may halt or continue at any pace inside the arena. When the signal to start the test is given the rider may start the test from inside or outside the arena.

2. Callers are permitted for riders who are classified as B1 Grade IV.

3. Riders may have up to nine callers, with the senior caller communicating with the Judge at c. Only one caller is allowed inside the arena; others must stand outside, and must make sure they do not restrict the vision of the judges. The rider is also allowed a commander in addition to callers if stated on their classification card. All riders who use callers may be requested to compete at the beginning or end of a class to avoid disruption to other competitors.

B2 – Grade V

Those riders who are visually impaired and classified as Grade V may use their own large letters if they wish but will be required to compete at the start or the end of the class. Riders wishing to do this must inform the organiser and are responsible for providing their own large or taller markers. Riders with a B2 profile may also have a caller inside the arena or use callers at letter markers in accordance with FEI rules.

Horses used for PARA – Equestrian competitions

- Horses competed by Grade I, II and III riders may be ridden by a designated rider other than the competitor for up to 30 minutes on the day of the competition, but may only be ridden by the competitor in the 15 minutes preceding the test.
- Any person riding the horse other than the competitor must be identifiable with a tabard or armband.

PARA Equestrian Dressage Tests –

- **Bronze (PARA Intro tests) Qualifiers**
- Grade I – Intro Test 3 (20 x 40)
- Grade II – Intro Test 10 (20 x 40)
- Grade III – Intro Test 21 (20 x 40)
- Grade IV – Intro Test 31 (20 x 40)
- Grade V – New Intro test (2016) (20 x 40)

- **Silver (Restricted) Qualifiers**
- Grade I – Novice Test A (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade II – Novice Test A (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade III – Novice test A (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade IV – Novice Test A (2017) (20 x 60)
- Grade V – Novice Test A (2017) (20 x 60)

Silver riders are able to ride the Bronze Intro tests as Non Qualifier tests.

- **Gold (Open) Qualifiers**
- Grade I – Individual Championship Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade II – Individual Championship Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade III – Individual Championship Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade IV – Individual Championship Test (2017) (20 x 60)
- Grade V – Individual Championship Test (2017) (20 x 60)

- **Gold (Open) Non Qualifiers**
- Grade 1 – Team Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade II – Team Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade III – Team Test (2017) (20 x 40)
- Grade IV – Team Test (2017) (20 x 60)
- Grade V – Team Test (2017) (20 x 60)

NB: PARA Novice B Tests (2017) are not being currently used in British Dressage

Winter & Summer Qualifiers 2017 / 2018

Summer Qualification for Gold – 1st February 2017 – 21st May 2017

Summer Qualification for Silver – 1st February 2017 – 31st July 2017

Bronze Qualification – 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Winter Gold & Silver Qualification – 1st August 2017 – 1st February 2018

Gold Summer Qualification period is short as the Semi Finals are held at Wellington Premier League in June. This also allows riders to also get qualification to compete at the CPEDI at Hartpury and Bishop Burton.

Lou Jones NW RDO Draft Feb 2017

PARA Judges

List A - National PARA Judges are List 3 and above and have completed and passed specific PARA Equestrian training. Being List 3 or above they can judge from medium level classes or higher depending on their listing.

Those shown as FEI International 4* and 3* Judges are all a minimum of List 2 so are qualified to judge PSG and above.

Retired FEI International Judges may judge National PARA classes and other classes depending on their listing.

List B – Intro PARA Judges are qualified to judge PARA Intro tests (3,10,21,31 & New Intro V) PARA Intro Judges are all List 4 and above BD judges who have completed and passed specific PARA Equestrian training, Being List 4 and above they can judge from Elementary level classes or higher depending on their listing.

Please refer to page 219 / 220 for all Listed BD PARA Judges

[Current List of Intro PARA Judges & National PARA Judges](#)

Schedules & Fixtures

From the March/ April 2017 Fixtures meetings will be arranged by your RDO, you will be asked to submit PARA dates in the same way as your normal BD dates. Any clashes will be looked at by Head office and you will be notified to discuss other dates available.

Your Schedules will be inputted by BD head office and they will show all Grades for Gold, Silver, Bronze and all tests that can be ridden. In total there is 20 different classes that have to be advertised, however in reality you will only get a handful of riders in each grade and sometimes none at all, so please don't be put off at the way the schedule is laid out.

[Example A - PARA Only](#)

[Example B – PARA & Able bodied run on the same day](#)

Organiser's Helpful Tips

- Ensure you have enough staff on site to assist on moving arenas from short to long and where possible run long arena first, followed by short arena.
- Map your short arena out within your long arena and turn markers around until needed (this is dependant if you are only using one arena)
- Ensure you have the right tests (year dates) for the classes advertised in your schedule. Please contact Rachel Smith at British Dressage if you have any queries.
- All Dressage tests can be downloaded from the [BD website \(PARA Intro\)](#) or [FEI website](#)
- If you are running alongside an able bodied day ensure that your able bodied riders are aware that they are warming up with disabled riders or use a separate warm up area. This is especially the case for Grade I-III.
- Does your venue have access to a disabled toilet? If you do not have a toilet that is accessible for a wheelchair you should only run classes for Grade IV & V
- Does your venue have access to a mounting block? A rider requiring a mounting block should provide their own but it is helpful if they can have access to one at the venue.
- Start your PARA classes in the afternoon to allow riders to warm up. It is advisable to allow the Grade V riders to go first giving time to less able rider's time to prepare.
- Allow approx. 8 minutes per test
- Ensure that your secretaries / entries area is on the ground floor or has disabled access
- Access to refreshments as most do travel a good distance due to the fewer qualification opportunities
- It is fine to host PARA competitions outdoors, just ensure that there is safe surroundings (no loose horses in the field next door etc)