



EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION ESWATINI

ESWATINI NATIONAL DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Version 2023.4 Rev. September 2023

PREAMBLE

The Equestrian Federation of Eswatini's (EFEs) Eswatini National Dressage Championships are designed to assist the development of the discipline within the Federation and the qualification of horses and riders as they progress through the grades, to regional and international standards. As in all equestrian sports, the interest and welfare of the horse shall be considered paramount in Eswatini National Dressage Championships.

Eswatini National Dressage Championship is held once annually for a calendar period. The Eswatini National Dressage Championship rules have been structured in order to encourage as many riders to the annual Championship as possible, whilst promoting performance excellence to regional and international standards.

GENERAL & DISCIPLINE RULES

The following rules are officially recognized as Eswatini National Dressage Championship Rules and are to be read in conjunction with all current General FEI Rules and Regulations, FEI Dressage Rules, Dressage SA Rules, EFE Annexures to Dressage SA Rules, FEI Veterinary Regulations and EFE General Regulations where applicable, for Eswatini National Dressage Championships.

It should be noted that the Eswatini National Dressage Championship rules replace all rules pertaining to the South African Championships within the DressageSA Rules.

All other texts covering the same matter (other editions and all other official documents) issued previously are superseded.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & CRITERIA

1. Each athlete is responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with all relevant rules and regulations as stated above and as may be published from time to time.
2. Eswatini National Dressage Championships may only be hosted at EFE Recognised Venues within Eswatini.
3. EFE Management Committee and the EFE discipline committee are responsible for the organising of the Eswatini National Dressage Championships and may include training level and graded level classes in the Championship event.

4. A horse/rider combination must ride in their grade as defined by the latest dressage grading records approved by EFE's Head of Dressage Sub-Committee and EFE's Technical Liason.
5. A horse/rider combination may ride both available class tests at the National Dressage Championship competition with the exception of Medium levels and above, who may only ride one (1) test in accordance with Dressage SA rules.
6. The second class test will be the Championship test counting towards the National Dressage Championship titles.
7. Equality - In the event of equality of total marks for first place in the Adult, Junior and Pony Rider Championships, the horse with the higher collective mark shall be placed first. If the total collective marks are also equal, the horses concerned shall be given first place.
8. If the show entries do not allow the show to be split over two (2) days, an arena familiarisation time-slot will be made available to athletes who are competing Medium and higher. This class will be charged for as per the schedule and will allow a time slot in the main arena prior to the commencement of the first official competitor of the show.
9. The starting order draw for the National Championship title event, i.e. the highest level of each category, will take place at the vet inspection.
10. Class competitions have to be completed. Riders who are eliminated or retire will not be awarded Class or National Championship titles.
11. In the event that less than three (3) different horse and rider combinations are competing for a National Championship title, the following criteria will be imposed on the competition in order for the National Champion titles to be awarded:
 - 11.1 A minimum percentage of 60% must be achieved.
 - 11.2 If the criteria is not met by any competitor in the discipline, the National Champion title may not be awarded, only the championship class results will be awarded.
12. The tests shall be of the required standard and approved by the EFE Technical Committee.
13. The Championship Organizing Committee, in conjunction with the EFE Dressage Sub-Committee, shall advise the EFE Technical Committee of the reference number of the tests to be ridden for approval purposes, prior to publishing same in the show schedule.
14. All Adult and Junior Championship Classes and the highest level Pony Rider class shall be ridden from memory.
15. The Grounds Jury shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Judges including a Foreign Judge who will be the President of the Grounds Jury. Both Judges must be qualified to judge at the highest level of competition at the National Dressage Championships event.
16. Prize giving for National Championship title winners will be mounted.

17. Prize money per placing and per class shall be published on the final programme for the National Dressage Championship. Prize money will not be less than 20% of the total entry fees.
18. A minimum of one (1) placing per four (4) competitors will be awarded.
19. Veterinary inspections are compulsory for the highest level of each National Championship title category. These inspections must be conducted by a registered veterinarian before the commencement of the show. Timing to be advised on the show schedule.
20. Every horse presented must have a valid passport and valid entry.
21. No substitution of horse may take place after the vet inspection.
22. The EFE and FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse will be strictly adhered to at all times.
23. Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these National Dressage Championship Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury to make a decision in a sporting spirit, by approaching as near as possible the intention of the Dressage SA Rules and of the FEI rules. Should there remain any omissions in the Dressage SA and FEI rules, such omission shall be fully interpreted in a manner compatible with the other provisions of these dressage rules, other rules and regulations of the FEI, and sporting spirit.

PARTICIPATION

24. The Eswatini National Dressage Championship competition is open to all EFE members in good standing with the Federation.
25. Horses/ponies to be ridden in the Championship must be registered and in good standing with EFE.
26. Competitors who will be competing for the Eswatini National Dressage Championship title must have a valid Eswatini passport or, for non-Swazi nationals, are legally resident within the Kingdom. Competitors of foreign nationality may still compete for the Championship Class title but will not be awarded National Championship title should they proceed to win their class.
27. The horse/pony and rider must have entered at least one (1) graded dressage event within the annual championship period prior to entering the Eswatini National Dressage Championships in order to qualify for The National Championship title. Qualifying graded dressage events include graded dressage shows hosted at registered venues within Eswatini or graded shows in any Group IX country. Dressage tests ridden as part of graded eventing competitions may not be considered to qualify for a Eswatini National Dressage Championship title.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS TITLES & AWARDS

28. Championship class titles will be given to the following categories

Pony Rider Novice Championship Class
Pony Rider Elementary Championship Class
Pony Rider Elementary Medium Champion Class
Pony Rider Medium Champion Class

Children Novice Championship Class
Children Elementary Championship Class
Children Elementary Medium Champion Class
Children Medium Champion Class

Junior Novice Champion Class
Junior Elementary Champion Class
Junior Elementary Medium Champion Class
Junior Medium Champion Class

Adult Novice Champion Class
Adult Elementary Champion Class
Adult Elementary Medium Champion Class
Adult Medium Champion Class
Adult Advanced Champion Class
Adult (St) Prix St George Champion Class
Adult Intermediate I Champion Class

29. An EFE President's Dressage Award will be awarded to the highest scored Preliminary test over all age groups.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

The National Dressage Championship will be awarded to Eswatini Nationals or non-Swazi legally resident in the Kingdom with the highest scoring dressage test in the highest level of competition, in line with the criteria defined herein, in the following categories:

National Pony Rider Dressage Champion
National Children Dressage Champion
National Junior Dressage Champion
National Adult Dressage Champion

In the event that the highest level of any category does not have a Swazi National or a non-Swazi legally resident in the Kingdom entered into the class there will be no official National Champion title awarded for that year. The title does not move down to a lower level competitor regardless of their nationality.

FLOATING TROPHIES

All National Championship floating trophies remain the property of EFE and shall be returned upon request to EFE prior to the next annual event.

CLOSING

As EFE are the custodians of these National Dressage Championship rules, they reserve the right to amend the rules in any way whatsoever in the best interest of the sport as a whole. Adjustments to the rules will be communicated to EFE membership annually at the AGM for the forthcoming championship period. EFE further reserve the right to the final decision in any ruling or interpretation of a ruling. Their decision will be final and binding.

End.

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