

**Oregon Dressage Society
SPONSORED HIGH SCHOOL
DRESSAGE CLUB GUIDELINES**

Membership in the High School Dressage Club will require parental involvement, horse ownership/lease, transportation to shows, riding lessons on a regular basis, and memberships in ODS (Oregon Dressage Society) and/or USDF and AHSA.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DRESSAGE

Dressage is a French work meaning training. Dressage was originally designed to show the horse's capability in performing various movements involved in reviewing troops on the parade ground. In 1733 Francois de la Gueriniere published the now classic book on dressage, School of horsemanship. Walt Disney made the Spanish Riding School of Austria well known to Americans in the movie The White Stallions of Vienna as it portrayed the rescue of these horses by the American troops in WWII.

Today the dressage test is composed of nine levels of competition, from the training level through first, second and so on up to FEI levels. The FEI (International Equestrian Federation) is the governing body for the sport throughout the world. FEI-level competitions include such world-class events as the Olympics. The purpose of the dressage test is to demonstrate the intense training the horse and rider have achieved to perform each movement with precision, balance, and suppleness. Ideally it should look as if the horse is performing of its own accord, carrying the rider in complete harmony. Each movement of the test is scored separately, rather like scoring in figure skating. Each rider can decide on his or her own which level tests to enter during the dressage competition. Horses and riders progress at their own pace, because there is no predetermined time period for advancement.

ODS sponsors local "League shows" and scores from these shows are recorded for state awards. Besides the league show there are also USDF/USA Equestrian "Recognized shows" and scores are recorded at a national level as well as locally and awards given accordingly. A 60% on a test is considered eligible for a League Show award. In addition to the ODS League and USA Equestrian/USDF Recognized shows there are also many local "schooling shows" that competitors may compete at.

THE PURPOSE OF A DRESSAGE CLUB :

Junior/Young Riders ride at all levels of competition from the lowest training level to FEI levels. Outside of the Olympics there are not many opportunities for riders to enjoy teamwork in dressage competitions. The Dressage Club gives students this opportunity by allowing them to represent their schools in a sport they work year round on. The Club also allows for students of different riding capabilities and experience to compete as a team. Team sports provide an educational opportunity for students build a positive character, build new friendships and gain personal confidence. Non riders may also belong to the club

The Dressage club will also provide members with the opportunity to obtain a varsity letter from their school. The NCAA has also considered adding Dressage as a Collegiate sport and if this were to occur students would have an opportunity to win scholarships to colleges.

As a member of the High School Athletic Program, students will also have the opportunity to be excused from school to attend the competitions they need to obtain a varsity letter.

COACHING:

To be able to ride a dressage test successfully, each club member will be advised of the need of at least weekly lessons from a trainer. There are a number of dressage trainers; it is not required that all members use the same trainer. The Oregon Dressage Society maintains a list of trainers that are members. If students need to locate one in their local area they may obtain this list from the ODS Office.

CLUB ADVISOR:

A parent will be selected by vote from the students to track club member's qualification for a letter. The Club Advisor must also be a member of ODS as well as a local ODS Chapter. One parent coordinator will also be responsible to making sure each student has fulfilled all the requirement to join the club. The Athletic Department will be responsible for making sure each student has fulfilled the school requirements for lettering. All lessons will be left up to the individual member.

CLUB ORGANIZATION:

The club will vote for the following positions: President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Membership. The President will serve as the liaison officer with the local chapter and will be required to attend chapter meetings and report on the club activities. Dressage Club members would also be encouraged to participate in their local chapter activities. Any funds generated by the club will be reported to the local chapter and a year-end report will be filed. If the club ceases to exist the funds will revert to the chapter. The Chapter treasurer must also be a signer on the account.

MEETINGS:

The club will be required to meet a minimum of twice during the school year. Members will also be encouraged to attend their ODS chapter meetings.

INSURANCE REQUIRED BY THE CLUB:

Each owner of the horse the club member is riding must show proof of ODS membership to provide insurance for any damage their horse might incur. The cost of any additional insurance will be divided among the members at the start of the school year. It is the responsibility of the club to report their organized activities to the ODS office as well as their chapter and follow all rules governing ODS in order to qualify for ODS activity insurance.

LETTER REQUIREMENT:

A 60% at 2 ODS shows at the level the horse is training in will be required. ***The scores must be obtained during the school year.*** Club members will also be required to volunteer at the shows they participate at. For sportsmanship reasons club members must not ride their team test more than one test lower than what they have been showing at. Dressage Club members may participate individually or as a team member at competitions. If a Dressage Club Member competes at a show as an individual they must present their scored test to the Club adviser as well as have a signed note from the show manager stating they also volunteered at the show.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS:

All athletic requirement of the school will be honored by the Equestrian Club. The club will be required to represent their school as a team at least once during the year. The show will be determined by the club members and reported to the athletic department. Club members are responsible for contacting other high school dressage clubs and arrange for the competition schedule.

INSTRUCTION:

Each rider will be responsible for obtaining their own instruction as well as the cost of the instruction.

ACTIVITIES:

A minimum of two unmounted meeting of the dressage club will be scheduled during the year by the President of the club. All members must attend these meetings.

Fund-raisers will be scheduled by the club as their need arises. In order for activities to be covered by ODS's insurance all funds will be reported and run through their chapter. The club may maintain a separate checking account though the local chapter treasurer will also be a signer of the account.

SAFETY:

All members are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified riding helmets, appropriate footwear, and appropriate clothing when engaging in mounted activities.

COMPETITIONS:

After the ODS Show omnibus is distributed in January, clubs will contact each other and determine which shows they would like to compete at. The ODS office will assist by providing High School Clubs with a list of those schools with clubs. Clubs will be able to field either USA Equestrian or ODS League show teams and compete at both types of competitions. The club will make this choice. It will be the responsibility of each club to make sure their entries are in on time and meet all deadlines. Shows will not be required to make special accommodations for competitors. At the competition club members will ride their test(s) and obtain their score sheet(s) from the Show Management. They will then take their scored tests to the team scorers for the purpose of calculating team scores. The Team Scorers will consist of representative members from all teams participating at the show. They will tabulate the team scores. After the team tests are scored the High School competitions results will be announced. Results should also be forwarded to Flying Changes, the official ODS newsletter magazine.

Teams will consist of 3 or 4 members and can be mixed level teams. If teams are of mixed levels they will compute the scores in the approved manner (refer to score sheet instructions). A score sheet and instructions will be developed and be made available from the ODS office.

Due to the high cost of running a horse show the current running "USDF/ODS Region 6 Jr/YR Team Dressage Championship Show" could be used as a year end championship for High School Dressage Clubs, until a time the Dressage Clubs would develop to a point of being able to support its own Championship show.

ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS: Students participating in high school Dressage clubs will follow their school's and league's academic and behavioral standards for student participation.