



Dressage Rules (Revised May 2022)

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, complimentary 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 7 Nations
- ★ 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 an 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 this competition. Furthermore, each NF agrees to share equally the travel fee of the Foreign Judge, after the FEI contribution has been deducted off the total travel figure. Should a NF decide not to participate in the 7 NATIONS Challenge, having confirmed their intent to participate after the final confirmation date of participation, the NF will still be liable for their portion of the expenses, unless it is the express majority wish of all participating NF's to allow that NF to cancel their participation in the Challenge.

Further each NF agrees to ensure the Foreign Judges expenses, whilst in their country, is met.

3. A floating trophy will be presented to the Winning Nation at the FEI Group IX meeting after the completion of the Challenge.
4. This event 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

5. STARTERS

5.1 A DWC rider takes preference and may enter as many times and in as many formats as is allowed by the DWC rule

5.2 A DWC horse and rider combination who has entered and started in the DWC may not enter and start in the 7 NATIONS.

5.3 A DWC Rider who has entered and started in the DWC may enter the 7 NATIONS on a different horse

5.4 A DWC Horse that has entered and started in the DWC may not enter the 7 NATIONS Challenge

5.5 A horse and rider combination may enter both Preliminary and Elementary classes of the 7 NATIONS on either the same horse or on two different horses

5.6 A rider may only enter twice in the 7 NATIONS

5.7 A rider who rides two horses may only have one combination put forward for the team. This will be the riders highest score

5.8 The Team should be considered as three different riders with the highest scores but could be 2 different riders on the same horse

6. 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:

6.1 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

7. SCRATCHINGS

After 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 horses total entry fee.

8. 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.

9. In the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE classes Horses/Ponies are eligible if they are a minimum of **5** years. The Horse/Pony must be the minimum age at the beginning of the Challenge cycle, i.e. 1 January of each year.

10. Tests to be used for the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE will be:

10.1 The Elementary Class
FEI Challenge Elementary Test – edition 2011

10.2 The Preliminary Class
FEI Challenge Preliminary Test – edition 2011

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

12. 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

13. AGE GROUPS:

13.1 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)

13.2 Young Rider – 12 years to 17 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 17th birthday)

13.3 Seniors – 18 years and over

14. 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

Results & Rankings

15. 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 best 3 percentage results of the country obtained in either class**, regardless of Age group:

- Preliminary
- Elementary

In the event that a rider appears more than once in the top 3, the second top score for that rider will be dropped and the next top score will be taken. A rider may only ever have one score counting towards the country's score.

15.1.2 The result will be derived **solely** on the score of the DWC appointed FEI Judge at C, as each NF may have a different Judge at E.

15.1.3 To qualify for the team, a rider must be a fully registered member of the NF. Riders who hold a temporary licence or registration of the NF may not qualify for the team score.

15.2 **The 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE INDIVIDUAL Winners** will be awarded for each Age Group in both the

15.2.1 The Preliminary Class

15.2.2 The Elementary Class

The result will be derived solely on the percentage score of the DWC appointed FEI Judge at C.

(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 AND PAYMENT**

16.1 Each NF must appoint a person ultimately 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 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. These will then become the official published rankings for the 7 NATIONS CHALLENGE.