



FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AACHEN

JUMPING / DRESSAGE
PARA DRESSAGE / EVENTING
DRIVING / VAULTING

Para Dressage – Rules, Features, Grades (Version 1, January 2026)

based on the current FEI rules

August 11th – 23rd, 2026

RULES & FEATURES

- **Five Grades:** Riders are classified into five grades by type and severity of disability (1 = most, 5 = least impaired).
- **Classification:** By trained doctors/physiotherapists, internationally valid, regularly reviewed for progressive conditions.
- **Scoring:** As in classical dressage, focus on rhythm, relaxation, contact, impulsion, straightness, collection – adapted to the rider's ability.
- **Compensatory Aids:** Individually permitted (e.g. special stirrups, belts, corsets, readers for tests, “friendly horse” for Grades 1-3).
- **Trainer Assistance:** In Grades 1-3, trainers may warm up the horse for max. 30 minutes/day (must be registered and monitored).
- **Reader/Caller:** For visual or concentration impairment, a reader or acoustic caller may be approved.

OVERVIEW OF GRADES

- **Grade 1:**
Walk only, 20x40m arena. Severe impairment (all four limbs/trunk, often wheelchair users). Focus: self-carriage, accurate figures.
- **Grade 2:**
Walk & trot (more walk), 20x40m. All four limbs affected, e.g. paraplegia, MS. Lateral movements, lengthening of strides.
- **Grade 3:**
Walk & trot (balanced), 20x40m. Three limbs affected, e.g. arm prosthesis. More demanding movements, lateral work in trot, rein back.
- **Grade 4:**
All gaits, 20x60m. 1-2 limbs or balance impaired. L/M level, e.g. canter-trot transitions.
- **Grade 5:**
Least impaired, usually one limb (e.g. wrist, lower leg). 20x60m, up to M level, no flying changes.

Note: For further details and individual regulations, please refer to the current FEI Para Dressage Rules.