



Simplified rules

The FEI World Cup™ Dressage is a series of competitions at FEI Grand Prix level, comprising qualifying events (CDI-W) and a Final.

The FEI has established four Leagues:

- the **Western European League**. The title sponsor of the Western European League is the New York-based fashion designer Reem Acra and the League is referred to as the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage.
- the **Central European League**;
- the [North American League](#);
- and the [Pacific League](#) (Australia and New Zealand).

(click on the links to see the specific qualification procedures and guidelines for the North American and Pacific Leagues as approved by the FEI Bureau. The rules for the Western and Central European Leagues are included in the general FEI World Cup™ Dressage rules, click [here](#)).

In any League, an athlete/horse combination may only start in six qualifying events. The four best results obtained in the qualifying events will count. In order to qualify for the Final or a League Final an athlete/horse combination must have started at least two times in the Freestyle to Music at a CDI-W.

At each qualifying event, the FEI Grand Prix Test serves as the qualifying test to the FEI Freestyle to Music, which is the competition in which FEI World Cup™ Dressage points are earned. The Grand Prix Test and the Freestyle to Music Test are held on two consecutive days.

In the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifiers, the number of competitors/horses to take part in the Freestyle to Music is limited to the 15 best combinations in the qualifying Grand Prix Test at the event, plus those who tie for the 15th place.

In the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, all participants who finish the Grand Prix with at least 58% ([FEI Rules for Dressage Events](#), article 422.3.1) will continue to the Grand Prix Freestyle.

The starting order in the competitions is determined by a draw.



The points in the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Freestyle are awarded as follows:

1st	20 pts	9th	8 pts
2nd	17 pts	10th	7 pts
3rd	15 pts	11th	6 pts
4th	13 pts	12th	5 pts
5th	12 pts	13th	4 pts
6th	11 pts	14th	3 pts
7th	10 pts	15 th	2 pts
8th	9 pts	(in case of a tie for 15 th place, 2 pts for each)	

FINAL

The minimum qualification criteria for all finalist combinations are as follows:

- Having scored at least 68% in the Freestyle to Music in a FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifying event (CDI-W) on two different occasions
- Having scored at least 68% in a Grand Prix Freestyle to Music in a CDI3/4/5*/CDIO on two different occasions, for athletes not belonging to one of the recognised Leagues.

In the Final, a maximum of 18 athletes/horses may participate:

Western European League	9
Central European League	2
Pacific League	1
North America	2
South America/Asia	1
Title-Defender	1
FEI extra starting places	max 2
Total:	max 18

A maximum of three athlete/horse combinations per country will be allowed to participate in the Final.

The title defender is automatically qualified with a horse of his/her choice with which, however, he/she must have competed in the Freestyle to Music at least at two FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifiers of the particular season. The Title defender will however not earn World Cup standings points for his/her starts.

The complete FEI World Cup™ Dressage rules for the 2014/2015 season are available [HERE](#).



Understanding Dressage

What is Dressage

The object of Dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, the horse becomes calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, achieving perfect understanding with the human athlete.

These qualities are demonstrated by the freedom and regularity of the paces; the harmony, lightness and ease of the movements; the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion; and the acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/thoroughness without any tension or resistance.

The test

Dressage competitions consist of different tests of varying levels of difficulty which assess to what degree the horse possesses these qualities.

Essentially a Dressage test is a series of movements or 'figures' to be performed by memory and in a specific order within a fenced, flat, rectangular arena (60m x 20m).

Each movement is scored depending on the accuracy of its execution. These scores are noted during the performance, on the following scale: 10 excellent; 9 very good; 8 good; 7 fairly good; 6 satisfactory; 5 sufficient; 4 insufficient; 3 fairly bad; 2 bad; 1 very bad; 0 not executed. Half-marks can also be awarded to ensure a more precise score.

On completion of the performance the athlete will also be awarded collective marks, again from zero to 10 and based on further criteria such as paces, impulsion, submission, the athlete's position and seat, and the correctness and effect of the aids. In the case of certain particularly difficult movements, a coefficient is added.

As athletes progress, the level of test they will attempt to perform becomes increasing difficult. Grand Prix Level represents the most difficult of the FEI Dressage tests.

The judges

The athlete's success will be evaluated by a panel of judges who also assess the horse's willingness to perform and the degree of affinity between rider and horse.



“We’re looking for exciting, expressive Dressage,” says Stephen Clarke, FEI 5* judge from Great Britain, “but with the horse completely in harmony with the rider. The energy, so beautiful to watch, comes from impulsion as opposed to tension.”

The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required.

At Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage qualifiers the Ground Jury is composed of five FEI judges, with seven judges at the Final. In order that the judge is able to concentrate fully on watching the test, each judge is assisted by a secretary or ‘scribe’. The role of the scribe is to note the scores exactly as dictated by the judge during the performance without making comments or interruptions.

The scribe notes the marks per movement as awarded by the judge and may also be asked to do the same for any remarks the judge may make. Remarks, stating the reason for the judgment are strongly recommended, particularly when giving marks of five and below.

Following the performance, each judge gives his collective marks and signs the sheet. The sheets from each of the judges then pass into the hands of the scorers. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding coefficients, where applicable, and then totalled. Penalty points for errors in the execution of the test are deducted on each judge's sheet and the total scores from each judge are then converted to percentages.

At the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final a Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) ensures there are neither definite technical mistakes nor mathematical errors overlooked by the judges.

The scores

The total score for the overall classification is obtained by adding the total points on each of the judges' sheets. These results are then published separately and provisionally in addition to the overall total. For example: 1) Percentage per judge E= 69.990%, H=70.333%, C=70.205% M=71.120%, B= 69.660%; 2) Final percentage: 70.261%.

All results must be published in percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point. A copy of the judge’s sheets is then available to the athletes.

Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage qualifiers and Final

The Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage qualifiers and Final consist of the FEI Grand Prix Test and the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle to Music Test.



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In the qualifiers the best 15 participants after the Grand Prix continue to the Grand Prix Freestyle. In the Final all participants who finish the Grand Prix with at least 58 percent continue to the Grand Prix Freestyle. The final classification in both cases is determined by the placing in the Freestyle.

“You can relate the Freestyle to Music to ice-skating,” says Stephen Clarke, “The rider has chosen and developed the music to suit the horse. This music should enhance the performance. We’re looking for a show of originality in choreography. The rider must obviously show the compulsory movements but can go beyond that to create sequences that create a higher degree of difficulty. He should interpret the music in a way that moves the general public.”



The history

Introduction

Discussions in dressage circles about the creation of a World Cup in that discipline began in the early eighties, following the success of the series in Jumping. The first serious meeting took place in 1982 in Paris and it was followed by a larger meeting in March 1983 in Dortmund (GER). The rules were established in December the following year.

Nashua, currently Nashuatec, one of the main brands for office equipment in Europe, became the newly created series' sponsor and remained in place for five years. It was followed by the Swedish car manufacturer Volvo who supported the FEI World Cup™ Dressage until 1998. New York-based fashion designer Reem Acra became the title sponsor of the Western European League in 2010.

In the first season of the FEI World Cup™ Dressage, 1985/1986, 76 riders from 14 countries competed in at least one of the 14 European qualifying competitions. Ten combinations qualified for the Final. In addition, there was one rider from the USA and one from Canada. The first Final took place from 21 to 23 March 1986 in 's-Hertogenbosch in The Netherlands.

1986 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Anne-Grethe Jensen of Denmark on Marzog emerged as the first FEI World Cup™ Dressage champion having won both the qualifying Grand Prix test and the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music. Later in the year the combination went on to win the world championships in Cedar Valley, Canada. Christopher Bartle (GBR) on Wily Trout, Christine Stückelberger (SUI) on Rubelit von Unkenruf, and Ann-Kathrin Linsenhoff (FRG) on Vallauris took the next places.

1987 Essen (FRG)

The second Final was held in the framework of the Equitana trade fair in Essen, in western Germany. This time the title went to Christine Stückelberger of Switzerland riding the Swiss-bred Gauguin de Lully. They were 77 points ahead of Anne-Grethe Jensen on Marzog in the Grand Prix and led by 3.2% in the Freestyle. George Theodorescu (FRG) put on a sparkling performance on Sunny Boy to finish third.

1988 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Christine Stückelberger (SUI) and Gauguin de Lully repeating their victory from the previous year. Cindy Ishoy of Canada, riding Dynasty, was second, the highest North American placing before 2003.

1989 Gothenburg (SWE)

The Scandinavium arena in Gothenburg, which had already hosted five highly acclaimed FEI World Cup™ Jumping Finals, was the site of the fourth Dressage



Final. Victory went to Margit Otto-Crépin (FRA) on Corlandus in front of a sell-out crowd of 10,800, ahead of the defending champions, Stückelberger on Gauguin de Lully and Nina Menkova of the Soviet Union on Dikson in third place.

1990 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

This was the last Final sponsored by Nashua. Twenty-three year old Sven Rothenberger, at the time still competing for his native Germany, won on Andiamo, ahead of Michael Klimke, the son of the legendary Dr Reiner Klimke, on Entertainer. Nina Menkova repeated her performance from the previous year placing third on Dikson.

1991 Paris Bercy (FRA)

The magnificent indoor arena of Paris-Bercy hosted the sixth FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, now sponsored by Volvo. For the first and only time a rider invited as a wild card to the Final won: Kyra. Kyrkland of Finland on Matador. Nina Menkova, still on Dikson, was second followed by Sven Rothenberger on Andiamo.

1992 Gothenburg (SWE)

For the first time a representative from the Pacific League competed. Another first was the selection of the riders from the USA and Canada in League Finals. Isabell Werth (GER) on Fabienne won, ahead of Sven Rothenberger on Ideaal and Monica Theodorescu (GER) on Grunnox.

1993 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Monica Theodorescu (GER) won by a considerable margin riding Ganimedes ahead of her compatriots Sven Rothenberger, Isabell Werth and Gina Capellmann.

1994 Gothenburg (SWE)

Monica Theodorescu repeated her 1993 victory on Ganimedes. Just like the previous year, the combination won both the Grand Prix and Freestyle, to finish ahead of Nicole Uphoff (GER) on Grand Gilbert and Kyra Kyrklund (FIN) on Edinburgh. Klaus Balkenhol (GER) on Goldstern was fourth after a disappointing performance in the Grand Prix.

1995 Los Angeles (USA)

For its 10th anniversary, the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final made its first overseas trip to the Griffith Park Equestrian Centre in Burbank, Los Angeles, California. European competitions had been divided into two Leagues, Western European and Central European, and all Western European League competitions had to be held indoors. Anky van Grunsven (NED) had won, with her two horses Bonfire and Cocktail, five of the eight qualifying competitions in the Western European League. In Griffith Park aboard Bonfire she was the undisputed leader scoring a whopping 83.60% in the Freestyle ahead of Monica Theodorescu (GER) on Ganimedes.



1996 Gothenburg (SWE)

Anky van Grunsven (NED) and Bonfire won in Gothenburg as well. Klaus Balkenhol (GER) on Garçon was runner-up in the Grand Prix. But Margit Otto-Crépin (FRA) on Lucky Lord overtook him in the Freestyle – which counted 150% at the time – to finish second overall.

1997 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Fourteen riders competed at 's-Hertogenbosch in 1997. Anky van Grunsven (NED) scored her third victory on Bonfire; Sven Rothenberger on Weyden was second, Louise Nathhorst (SWE) on Walk on Top was third.

1998 Gothenburg (SWE)

The FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final 1998 returned to Gothenburg for the last year of the Volvo sponsorship of the series. Louise Nathhorst (SWE), riding the 13-year-old Hanoverian Walk on Top, won on home ground. She had been in the lead in both tests, each time ahead of Anky van Grunsven (NED) on Bonfire, the winner in the three previous years. Isabell Werth on Anthony was third.

1999 Dortmund (GER)

Anky van Grunsven (NED) and Bonfire scored their fourth FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final victory. Isabell Werth, again on Anthony, was second, ahead of Alexandra Simons-de Ridder (GER) on Chacomo. Defending champions, Louise Nathhorst (SWE) and Walk on Top, were fifth in the Grand Prix and did not take part in the Freestyle.

2000 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Bonfire and Anky van Grunsven (NED) earned their fifth title in 2000 in 's-Hertogenbosch, a few months before winning Olympic gold in Sydney. Two more Dutch riders, Coby van Baalen and Arjen Teeuwissen were second and third.

2001 Aarhus (DEN)

The foot-and-mouth disease of 2001 prevented a proper Dutch representation at the 16th FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final in Aarhus, Denmark. Ulla Salzgeber of Germany on the Latvian-bred 13-year-old Rusty was the winner ahead of Isabell Werth (GER) on Anthony, and Rudolf Zeilinger (GER) on Livinjo.

2002 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Ulla Salzgeber (GER) and Rusty repeated their victory from the previous year. Lars Petersen (DEN) on Blue Hors Caravan was second ahead of Beatriz Ferrer-Salat of Spain on Beauvalais.

2003 Gothenburg (SWE)

The 18th FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final was overshadowed by the disqualification of the winning combination, Ulla Salzgeber (GER) and Rusty,



following a positive test to a prohibited substance. They had won the Freestyle – the Grand Prix no longer counted for the overall result - ahead of Debbie McDonald (USA) on Brentina and Heike Kemmer (GER) on Albano. Following the disqualification of the winner, Debbie McDonald became the champion.

2004 Düsseldorf (GER)

Anky van Grunsven (NED), now on Salinero, earned her sixth FEI World Cup™ Dressage title. at the 19th series Final. Later that year she went on to win her second individual Olympic gold medal in Athens. In Düsseldorf she won both the Grand Prix, which determined the starting order in the Freestyle, and the Freestyle itself scoring 83.450%. Anky's pupil Edward Gal (NED) was second on Lingh and Hubertus Schmidt (GER) was third on Wansuela Suerte.

2005 Las Vegas (USA)

The 20th Final was held in Las Vegas (USA), where two highly successful FEI World Cup™ Jumping Finals had been organised in 2000 and 2003. For the first time the Finals of the two disciplines were held at the same time at the same site. The event was a huge success. Anky van Grunsven (NED) on Salinero was unbeatable once again earning her seventh World Cup title. Edward Gal (NED) on Geldnet was second and Debbie McDonald (USA) on Brentina was third.

2006 Amsterdam (NED)

The long-established Jumping Amsterdam in the RAI exhibition complex hosted the 21st Final. Anky van Grunsven (NED) and Salinero won again, this time ahead of Isabell Werth (GER) on Warum Nicht and Jan Brink (SWE) on Bjorsells Briar.

2007 Las Vegas (USA)

The second FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final to be held in Las Vegas saw Isabell Werth (GER) on Warum Nicht FRH win her second title as well as the largest amount of prize money – USD 110,000 – available to the series champion at the time. Imke Shellekens-Bartels (NED) and Sunrise placed second followed by Steffen Peters (USA) and Floriano.

2008 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Anky van Grunsven (NED) riding the dark bay Hanoverian gelding IPS Salinero won a record-breaking ninth FEI World Cup™ Dressage title. Later in the year she would go on to become individual Olympic champion for the third time. Isabell Werth (GER) was second riding Warum Nicht FRH and the 1991 champion Kyra Kyrklund (FIN) was third on Max.



2009 Las Vegas (USA)

The Rolex FEI World Cup™ Jumping and Dressage Finals were held concurrently in Las Vegas (USA). For the first time an American, Steffen Peters riding Ravel, won the title in his home country establishing a personal best (84.950%) on this occasion. Peters was only the second US rider – the first being Debbie McDonald on Brentina – in the 24-year long history of the FEI World Cup™ Dressage to become the series' champion. Isabell Werth (GER) aboard Satchmo and Anky van Grunsven (NED) on IPS Painted Black were respectively second and third.

2010 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

The Netherlands' Edward Gal and the super-stallion Moorlands Totilas claimed the 25th anniversary FEI World Cup™ Dressage title. They clinched the trophy for The Netherlands for the tenth time. Adelinde Cornelissen (NED) and the athletic Jerich Parzival were runners up demonstrating a creative new routine. Another Dutch rider, Imke Schellekens-Bartels, daughter of long-time FEI World Cup™ Dressage director Joep Bartels, and her elegant mare, Hunter Douglas Sunrise, placed third.

2011 Leipzig (GER)

The Netherlands' Adelinde Cornelissen, riding the magnificent 14-year-old gelding Jerich Parzival, danced to victory in the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ 2011 Final. The partnership entered the equestrian history books as the 11th Dutch winners of the coveted title. Denmark's Nathalie zu Sayn-Wittgenstein and Digby finished second, while Germany's Ulla Salzgeber steered Herzruf's Erbe into third.

2012 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

Adelinde Cornelissen and Jerich Parzival, the defending champions from The Netherlands, clinched the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage title for the second consecutive season when topping the Freestyle on home turf in 's-Hertogenbosch (NED). But Germany's Helen Langehanenberg really pressurised the dominant Dutch duo with a spectacular performance that left them a close second, while Italy's Valentina Truppa was a huge hit with the packed stadium of spectators when finishing third with Ermo del Castegno.

2013 Gothenburg (SWE)

Germany's Helen Langehanenberg lived up to all the promise she had shown over the past seasons to clinch the 2013 Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage title in style with the fabulous stallion, Damon Hill. The 30-year-old rider produced a breath-taking performance that catapulted her into the lead when fourth-last to go of the 17 through to the closing stages. And despite their best efforts, defending champion Adelinde Cornelissen and her Dutch colleague Edward Gal could not do better, having to settle for second and third places respectively.



2014 Lyon (FRA)

World No. 1, double-Olympic and European champion and the rider who holds all three world records in the sport, Charlotte Dujardin, became the first-ever Briton to win the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage title at Lyon in France. She steered Valegro to a mark of 92.179 that left her well ahead of defending champions Helen Langehanenberg and Damon Hill NRW from Germany in second place. The Netherlands' Edward Gal and Glock's Undercover revealed more of their increasing potential when slotting into third.

FEI World Cup™ Dressage champions 1986-2014

YEAR	RIDER	NF	HORSE
1986	Anne-Grethe Jensen	DEN	Marzog
1987	Christine Stückelberger	SUI	Gaugin de Lully
1988	Christine Stückelberger	SUI	Gaugin de Lully
1989	Margit Otto-Crepin	FRA	Corlandus
1990	Sven Rothenberger	GER	Andiamo
1991	Kyra Kyrklund	FIN	Matador
1992	Isabell Werth	GER	Fabienne
1993	Monica Theodorescu	GER	Ganimedes
1994	Monica Theodorescu	GER	Ganimedes
1995	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Bonfire
1996	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Bonfire
1997	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Bonfire
1998	Louise Nathhorst	SWE	LRF Walk on Top
1999	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Gestion Bonfire
2000	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Gestion Bonfire
2001	Ulla Salzgeber	GER	Rusty
2002	Ulla Salzgeber	GER	Rusty
2003	Debbie McDonald	USA	Brentina
2004	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Gestion Salinero
2005	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Keltec Salinero
2006	Anky van Grunsven	NED	Keltec Salinero
2007	Isabell Werth	GER	Warum Nicht FRH
2008	Anky van Grunsven	NED	IPS Salinero
2009	Steffen Peters	USA	Ravel
2010	Edward Gal	NED	Moorlands Totilas
2011	Adeline Cornelissen	NED	Jerich Parzival
2012	Adeline Cornelissen	NED	Jerich Parzival
2013	Helen Langehanenberg	GER	Damon Hill NRW
2014	Charlotte Dujardin	GBR	Valegro



Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage online

All the information on the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage is available at <http://fei.org/fei/sponsors/reem-acra-and-fei/world-cup>

Please check these additional online resources for further information:



Watch the action live from the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage 2014/2015 on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official online video platform.



Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Photo Catalogue](#).

Please register your details and a username and password will be emailed to you.



Interviews, previews, videos of winning performances, and behind the scenes footage will also be available to download from [FEI's YouTube Channel](#) throughout the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage 2014/2015 season.



Join the FEI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) – we will be posting throughout the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage 2014/2015, using the hashtags #Dressage and **#ReemAcraFEIWC**