

INNOVATIVE HORSE & RIDER ACADEMY



Conditions of participation

- 1) The virtual competitions are “open competitions”. This means that any person with their domicile in a European country qualifies to participate as long as they meet the required qualifications. People from outside Europe who want to register for a competition should get into touch with the organiser via meldestelle@virtualdressagetour.com to coordinate their participation.

- 2) Participation in the following categories is possible as long as the rider meets the required qualifications:

Category	Level	Rider's qualification
VDT – easy	Rider's test without license No canter!	Only for competitors without license
VDT – light	Rider's test without license	Only for competitors without an OEPS or FEI license
VDT – medium	Rider's test category A	Only for competitors without license or having acquired level R1 for Austria, LK5 for Germany or similar for other countries.
VDT – advanced	Rider's test category L	Only for competitors without license or having acquired level R2 for Austria, LK4 for Germany or similar for other countries.
VDT – professional	Rider's test category LM / LP or M*	Only for competitors without license or having acquired level R2 for Austria, LK4 for Germany or similar for other countries.
VDT – superior	Rider's test category M	All riders without any restrictions in terms of license!
VDT – elite	Rider's test category S	All riders without any restrictions in terms of license!

Please contact the organiser in case of any doubts!

- 3) There is no minimum age. The legal guardian shall be liable. In case of minors the legal guardian has to agree to registration and entry.
- 4) The minimum age for horses ridden in level easy, light, and medium is 4 years. The minimum age for horses ridden in level advanced and professional is 5 years.
- 5) Each rider/horse couple may participate only once in each category. However, horses and riders may start several times in different combinations within the same category.
- 6) No membership to the OEPS or any other association is required.
- 7) No horse registration to the OEPS or any other association is required. There are no compulsory vaccinations.
- 8) The following is required to participate in a virtual competition:
 - a. Timely registration on www.virtualdressagetour.com
 - b. Timely payment of the entry fee of 25 € by transfer to the mentioned bank account¹
 - c. For participants whose currency is the Swiss franc, entry fee is 29 CHF and shall be transferred in CHF² to our SEPA account. No handling fees are billed to the payer. Cash rewards are converted at an exchange rate of 1.16 and transferred in CHF.
- 9) Arena requirements: The dressage arena needs to be rectangular in shape and flat. For competitions up to VDT professional the required dimension is 20 x 40 m; for VDT superior and VDT elite 20 x 60. The letters must be placed according to the usual OEPS requirements (see "Tests for dressage competitions").
You are free to choose the ground but it has to be flat. The test can be performed outdoors or in an inside arena. Please make sure that the quality of the video recording is satisfactory.
- 10) Rider's equipment:
 - a. It is compulsory to wear a riding helmet that complies with the European standard "EN 1384"
 - b. It is permitted to wear a back protector.
 - c. Black/dark riding boots or chaps.
 - d. It is not compulsory to wear a sports jacket, ascot/cravat or a chemise/blouse. The colour of the top and riding breeches can be freely selected. It is recommended to wear riding breeches in bright colours and a top in dark colours. It should be noted that unfavourable clothes may have an impact on the score.
 - e. White riding gloves are mandatory.

¹ Euro account: Payee: Innovative Horse & Rider Academy BIC RZTIAT22362 IBAN: AT20 3636 2000 0016 8906

² CHF account: Payee: Innovative Horse & Rider Academy BIC RZTIAT22362 IBAN: AT72 3636 2010 0016 8906

f. Auxiliary means: it is allowed to use a dressage whip and spurs.

11) Horse's equipment: The guidelines of the OEPS competition regulation shall apply.

- Horse boots and bell boots are permitted.
- Tendon boots/bandages are permitted. We recommend using white tendon boots/bandages for better visibility in the video recording.
- Breast collars, breastplates without martingale or cruppers are permitted in order to prevent the saddle from slipping.
- A saddle not required equipment. You can ride bareback if you want!
- No use of auxiliary reins (exception for the School Horses Cup and VDT easy: the use of auxiliary reins such as side-reins, running reins, Gogue, martingale, Thiedemann/Köhler reins is permitted – however these riders will see their score lowered by 0.5 points).
- Follow the instructions for bits and bridles according to the ÖTO 3 (§58 equipment). Additionally the following bitless bridles are permitted: Dually Monty Roberts, LG bridle (without shanks), bosal bridle, side pull bridle and knotted bridles as well as Meroth bits.
- For VDT superior and VDT elite: dressage curb bits are permitted but not compulsory!

12) During the ride no help from outside is permitted. However the test may be read out loud.

13) The ridden test must be filmed with video camera or smartphone with an appropriate camera and provided in a timely manner before the deadline. The video file should not be larger than 2 gigabytes.

14) The video is provided to the judges for evaluation. The following specific requirements apply to video recordings:

- a. The camera needs to be located at least 2 meters outside the arena at letter C (in order to make sure that the exercises ridden on the short side are correctly recorded).
- b. The video recording must be done without interruption and may not be cut. The test may be ridden and recorded several times. The competitor decides what recording is submitted in the end.
- c. During the recording, zooming is permitted but the horse/rider couple must be visible all times as a whole.
- d. The video must be transferred in a file format common for smartphones via VDT data exchange <https://virtualdressagetour.wetransfer.com/> ⁴.

³ Download from <http://www.oeps.at/main.asp?VID=1&kat1=87&kat2=575>; ÖTO, §58 Equipment

⁴ Instructions for registration/submission can be found on the website: www.virtualdressagetour.com

- e. The video must be correctly identified in the field for messages when transferring it via wetransfer: competition category – first name, last name – horse's name
Example.: VDT – light Max Mustermann - Maxi
 - f. In case of multiple participations, each file must be transferred separately.
 - g. A recording is admitted only once per competition and shall not be used a second time for another competition.
 - h. The recording has to include sound. A recording submitted without sound can lead to disqualification.
 - i. The quality of the video recording can have a significant influence on the score.
- 15) The organiser transfers the competitor's video to the judges for evaluation. The competitor agrees that his/her video may be published on the organiser's website as well as on social media channels if he/she is ranked among the best of the category. All further rights on the video recording remain with the rider.
- 16) Evaluation of the dressage test: The horse and rider's performance is evaluated according to the rules of classical riding and the FEI guidelines. Decisive criteria include the horse's training level and the rider's seat and aids. The evaluation is carried out by internationally renowned dressage experts. The association "Innovative Horse & Rider Academy" compiles the panel of judges on the basis of required qualifications.
- 17) For each category, groups of a maximum of 30 riders are formed and evaluated. One fifth of each group will be ranked among the best. The organiser assigns the riders to the groups randomly by drawing lots, registration date, day of video transfer, alphabetical order of first names or last names and license category.
- 18) The video evaluation is done in written format. The organiser transmits the signed transcript via e-mail to the competitor once all results have been compiled. In addition to the usual OEPS requirements, the evaluation will also judge the video quality. Furthermore, results will include advice from the judges to the competitor on training methods and areas of improvement.
- 19) Cash and non-cash rewards are given out according to the specifications governing the competition. All decisions are final.
- 20) It is not possible to cancel entries. After the entry closing date, it is only possible to transfer the entry to another person.
- 21) Late entries after the entry closing date are possible until the deadline for submitting the video recording. Late entries are charged an additional fee of 5 € due to higher

administrative efforts. Consequently, the fee for late entries amounts to 30 €.

- 22) VDT is a series of events independent of any national or international equestrian association. It is therefore not possible to apply for any license credit points.
- 23) The evaluation given by the dressage expert may not be criticised after the competition. Errors that may occur when copying or calculating the score will be corrected also at a later date.
- 24) The organiser “Innovative Horse & Rider Academy” assumes no liability whatsoever. All owners and competitors are personally responsible for damages to third parties, caused by themselves, their employees, their agents or their horses.
- 25) With registration the competitor accepts the conditions of participation, competition regulations and procedures as well as the publication of his/her name and the video if ranked among the best.
- 26) Special provision for School Horses Cup:
 - a) Registration is done online with our entry form and has to be transmitted by each equestrian school as a collective registration.
 - b) The use of auxiliary reins is permitted (side-reins, running reins, Gogue, martingale, Thiedemann/Köhler) – however these riders will see their score lowered by 0.5 points. The riding instructor is responsible for correctly attaching the auxiliary reins.