

# Musical Freestyle

Musical Freestyle is an exciting combination of the technical movements and the artistic aspects of Classical Dressage and/or Western Dressage.

To foster the highest possible technical quality in Musical Freestyle performances, competitors are required to enter a Musical Freestyle class only at the level at which they have already demonstrated proficiency.

## **Eligibility to perform in a Musical Freestyle:**

- In order to enter a Musical Freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received one (1) minimum score of 60% in the highest test of the declared Musical Freestyle level.
- Qualifying score can be earned in a previous year as long as the horse/rider combination that wishes to perform in a Musical Freestyle has not changed.
- Qualifying score must be obtained prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination wishes to enter a Musical Freestyle class.
- Qualifying score must be earned at a GCC schooling show or a GCC approved schooling show.
- A photocopy of the test verifying eligibility must be submitted with the entry for a Musical Freestyle class.

## **General:**

- Musical Freestyle is judged according to technical execution (execution of compulsory movements) and artistic impression (harmony, choreography, degree of difficulty, music and interpretation).
- It is performed in a standard dressage arena (20 x 60 meters).
- The Musical Freestyle score sheet that will be used at the time of show must be current and a USDF or WDAA Musical Freestyle test sheet (provided by GCC show management).
- Costumes are optional (will not effect final score).
- It is permissible to ride with the reins in one hand.

## **Time:**

- The time limit is specified on the USDF or WDAA Musical Freestyle test sheet for each level.
- There is no minimum time requirement.
- Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One (1) point will be deducted from the total for artistic impression for exceeding the time limit.
- The program is timed and judged from the horse's move-off after the initial halt and salute. Timing will cease at the final salute.
- The rider must signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell, or be eliminated.
- The rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music, or they may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge.

## **Music:**

- Music is mandatory.
- Exit music is not allowed.
- In case of rider's music failing before or during a Musical Freestyle test and in cases where there is no backup system, the rider can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or start at a later time. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The rider may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.

## **GCC Musical Freestyle Year End Award Qualifications:**

- To qualify for the GCC Year End Musical Freestyle Award the horse/rider combination must have received two (2) Musical Freestyle scores from declared level.
- Horse/Rider combination can qualify for the GCC Year End Musical Freestyle Award in more than one level, as long as they earn two (2) scores for each level.
- The Year End Musical Freestyle Award will be awarded to the highest final score for each division.
- The divisions are categorized as Junior/Amateur and Open. (All levels)