

2019



RISING STARS YOUTH DRESSAGE

HANDBOOK

www.risingstarsdressage.com



*Rising Stars
Youth
Dressage*

Equitation

*B.C.
Championship*

FINALIST



**RSD
MISSION**



RISING STARS YOUTH DRESSAGE

- MISSION -

To provide youth riders, 21 years and under,
the opportunity to participate in a
dressage competition that is exclusively their own,
in an environment that provides a fair playing field
for youth riders of different age groups
wherein each will compete against his/her peer group
at all levels of skill, from beginners to advanced.

AN INTRODUCTION TO RISING STARS YOUTH DRESSAGE

Rising Stars Youth Dressage was established in 2004 as an all youth Dressage and Hack Show at Heritage Park in Chilliwack, B.C. The vision of the Rising Stars committee was to encourage more youth participation in Dressage.

The Rising Stars Youth Dressage Show quickly became much more than a competition: sportsmanship, education, sponsorship, camaraderie, fair play, and fun activities had come to be the hallmark of the Rising Stars experience.

One of the innovations of the Rising Stars committee was the development of the all new Rising Stars Equitation program in 2015. This program was created to help address the need for skill development in youth dressage riders with a focus on rider equitation. The RS Equitation program was piloted at the Rising Stars show in 2016 and 2017 and at the Ottawa Dressage Festival in 2018. This program is now recognized as a Dressage youth development program by Equestrian Canada starting in 2019.

In 2018 the Rising Stars committee made changes in order to make Rising Stars more accessible. Instead of our annual show in 2018, the committee worked on bringing Rising Stars to competitions around our Province. Seven shows around B.C. offered the Rising Stars Equitation program. Learn more about the 2018 Rising Stars road trip, the RS Equitation Champions/Reserve Champions and the Provincial RS Equitation Champions/Reserve Champions in the Equitation section of this handbook.

What's next? Rising Stars is coming to your Province and to a show near you! Please visit our website for updates and for a full History of Rising Stars Youth Dressage, the 2018 Rising Stars road trip report, Rising Stars Equitation program including score sheets, sample prize lists and programs.

www.risingstarsdressage.com



INTRO TO RSD



RSD OVERVIEW



RISING STARS YOUTH DRESSAGE: EQUITATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EQUITATION SHOW CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION

- Add an equitation judge to a technical test (see eligible levels)
- Post results by age categories in each level (see ages and levels)
- Top 2 riders from each age category in each level qualify to compete in the equitation final
- Equitation final(s): qualified riders compete in a head to head (all age groups and levels) equitation final flat class
- Winner and second place in the final(s) are the Rising Stars Equitation Champion and Reserve Champion of the show

There are separate Championship ride offs for Bronze and Gold. See full description below.

EQUITATION PROVINCIAL CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION

The Rising Stars Equitation Champions and Reserve Champions from participating shows around the Province are invited to a Provincial equitation final ride off at the end of the season. The Provincial final is a head to head flat class ride off. If there are Gold qualified riders and Bronze qualified riders, there will be 2 ride offs: a Provincial championship final ride off for Bronze and a Provincial championship final ride off for Gold. Each have its own Champion and Reserve Champion and are not combined.

WHAT MAKES THE RISING STARS EQUITATION PROGRAM UNIQUE?

Dressage Seat Equitation is traditionally judged as a group class (flat class) in which one rider is compared to another and where it is determined which rider comes closest to the equitation ideal.

The Rising Stars Dressage Equitation program has two parts. In Part 1 the equitation of the rider is evaluated while riding the technical dressage test. Since the test is ridden individually the equitation evaluation in Part 1 does not compare one rider to another but rather how close the individual rider comes to the equitation ideal (standard). The results from part 1 determine which riders qualify to go on to ride in Part 2. Part 2 is a head to head equitation final flat class (See Part 2 below). The qualified riders will be judged in a group and the judge will determine which riders of the group come closest to the equitation ideal and name them the Rising Stars Equitation Champion & Reserve Champion of the show.

PART 1: INDIVIDUAL EQUITATION JUDGING

Rising Stars Dressage equitation is judged during one of the rider's technical tests using the new Rising Stars equitation score sheet. The show committee will determine which tests will be designated to include the equitation judging (ie. test 2 in Training, 1st, & 2nd levels). During these designated tests there will be 2 judges: the technical judge as usual at C and the equitation judge sitting at H or M.

The rider will receive their technical score (Dressage test) from the technical judge and their equitation score from the equitation judge (equitation score sheet). When the equitation division has been completed the scores will be posted by age category in each level. The technical score and the equitation score are separate results and not combined. *Part 1 is the qualifier for Part 2 - the head to head equitation final.*

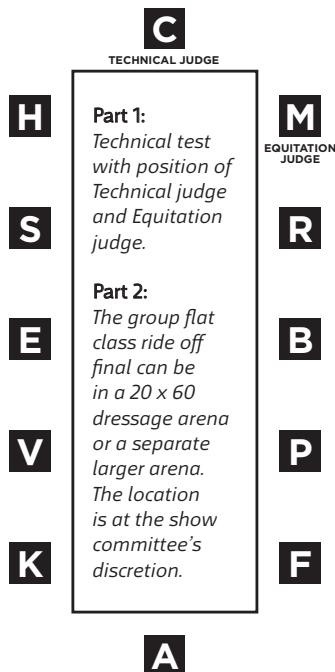
PART 2: HEAD TO HEAD EQUITATION FINAL RIDE OFF - SHOW CHAMPION & RESERVE

The top 2 equitation riders (based on their equitation score from Part 1) from each age category in each level will compete in a head to head flat class final to determine the show equitation champion and reserve champion. If the show offers both Gold and Bronze there will be 2 separate ride off finals – one for Gold riders and one for Bronze riders. The winner and second place of the ride off class(s) will become the Rising Stars Equitation Champion and Reserve Champion of the show. Gold and Bronze are not combined and therefore each has its own equitation champion and reserve champion.

RIDER ELIGIBILITY

The Rising Stars Equitation program is run as a Division at a Dressage show. If the show is only a Gold show or only a Bronze show or both Gold and Bronze the Rising Stars Equitation Division offers the following age groups and levels associated with the licence as follows:

GOLD	BRONZE
Training, First & Second Level	Training, First Level
10-12 years	10-12 years
13-15 years	13-15 years
16-21 years	16-21 years



EQUITATION SCORE SHEET

The new Rising Stars Equitation Score sheet was developed by Rising Stars BC committee member Cat Armitage and technical advisor Joan Macartney. It is the property of Rising Stars Youth Dressage BC.

For more information or for free use of this Equitation Score Sheet please contact Sue Holtby at rivndell@smartt.com or Wendy Christoff at wkchristoff@gmail.com. A copy of the score sheet is also available for download on the Rising Stars website.



RISING STARS EQUITATION SCORE SHEET

PURPOSE: To promote, reward and evaluate the dressage rider's correct position, seat and use of aids. The performance of the horse is important only as it relates to the rider's seat and aids. The quality of the horse should have no influence -the focus is on the rider. Given this priority, the Rising Stars team has created this innovative score sheet to assess equitation skills.

	ASSESSMENT OF:	COMMENTARY	SCORE
1.	Position		Out of 30
	Alignment, posture, stability, & weight placement in the walk, trot and canter. Ears/shoulder/hip/heel vertically aligned; heels level or slightly down, the front and back of the rider's trunk should be of equal length; straight line from elbow to horse's mouth. Contact to be independent from rider's seat, with hands carried steadily close together, the thumbs as highest point and straight line from elbow to horse's mouth. Relaxed and supple position.		
	WALK		/10
	TROT		/10
	CANTER		/10
2.	Transitions		Out of 20
	General transitions between and within the gaits. All halts. Transitions should be well prepared, tactful and smooth and not abrupt. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position. Calm transitions, willing, straight, attentive halt, immobile (3 sec.)		
	IN WALK/TROT/CANTER		/10 x 2
3.	Effectiveness		Out of 20
	The use, timing and coordination of the rider's aids. Ability to ride forward & maintain contact through all paces and movements. Ability to ride the required movements of the test maintaining tempo and rhythm. Clarity, subtlety, independence, & accuracy of test. The effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the precise fulfillment of the required movements of the tests.		
	IN WALK/TROT/CANTER		/10 x 2
4.	Overall Harmony and General Impression		Out of 30
	Rider's rhythm, balance and harmony with horse in following the mechanics of the gaits. Fluidity and partnership of the rider/horse combination in executing the test. There should always be the impression of a harmonious partnership between horse and rider.		
	IN WALK/TROT/CANTER		/10 x 3
Additional Comments:			
			Subtotal:
			Total Points: (max points 100)
Marks from 0 to 10, decimals allowed (e.g. 7.3 or 8.7)			

JUDGING

EC licensed Dressage judges are required to judge the Rising Stars equitation at EC licensed show. The equitation judging is done during a scheduled technical test using the new Rising Stars Equitation score sheet. The equitation judge will sit at either H or M and will require a scribe. The Equitation judge will also judge the equitation final flat class.

Look for Rising Stars equitation to be included in future dressage judging clinics. For more information contact Lindsey Blakely, Equestrian Canada Coordinator, Technical Development.

THE EQUITATION STANDARD

We recommend reading the USEF Guidelines for Judging Equitation. This document can be found under Resources on the Rising Stars website. In addition we are working on a Rising Stars Equitation guidelines document.

COMPETITION ORGANIZERS

Shows can offer the Rising Stars Youth Dressage Equitation division on its own or they can choose to offer a Rising Stars Youth Dressage division which would offer more youth Dressage classes including the equitation division. Resources available for show organizers at the Rising Stars website include the Rising Stars Youth Dressage Handbook, Rising Stars Equitation Score Sheet, USEF Guidelines for Judging Equitation, Rising Stars Youth Dressage sample show prize list, and sample show program.

www.risingstarsdressage.com | www.equestrian.ca

Back cover photo by Courtenay Fraser of rider Sophia Rokstad, Rising Stars BC Equitation Champion, Gold

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