



2020 Rulebook



NAWD Virtual & Live Shows

NAWD Show Rules (effective 2019)

The following rules apply for any NAWD Virtual Show or any NAWD recognized Live Show. NAWD Virtual Show rules apply for all tests submitted regardless if they are NAWD tests, USEF/USDF, or WDAA tests.

PLEASE NOTE: At the discretion of the scoring judge, improper arena set up or improper filming/editing may be deemed inappropriate and may be cause for disqualification. If there is any doubt, please contact us at northamericanwd@gmail.com for guidance prior to submitting your entry.

***Always make sure to compete with the current test for the current show year!**

NAWD Shows

1. The dressage court and/or arena props, such as cones and poles, must be in proper position and measured to scale. Clear, visual markers are required for each Dressage Court letter, in which each marker is a minimum of 12 inches high. Poles, cones, etc. must be measured properly to the tests' or disciplines' descriptions. For tests that require the use of a dressage court, the minimum size is 55ft by 110ft for Dressage and 50ft by 100ft for Ranch Horse and must be scaled to size by using NAWD's Dressage Court Calculator. Click [HERE](#) for the link.
2. **UPDATE September 2020- At the beginning of the test, a sign must be shown that includes the rider and horse name; the show you are entering, date of video, and test information (source/level/test number)**
3. The camera/recorder must be positioned at the letter C at a minimum height of 4ft from the ground on a steady object or tripod.
4. If a phone or similar device is used to video, the video must be created in horizontal format (with the phone turned sideways)
5. The full horse and full rider/handler MUST be within the frame of the camera at all times. Please use the zoom as needed to allow the judge to properly evaluate the horse and rider/handler. If a video presents unclear, out of focus or the horse/rider/handler remains out of frame repeatedly (for at least 3 maneuvers) in a test, then the judge has the discretion to disqualify the test.
6. Video must be recorded from beginning to end without editing. If there is questionable content, then the judge has the discretion to disqualify the test.
7. Besides a caller for your test, any other instruction given to the rider/handler will result in an automatic disqualification.
8. Riders or Handlers are permitted to talk to their horse, use voice commands/cues, and physically or verbally reward their horses when done discretely. Overuse of extensive, loud voice may earn a 2-point error. This is permitted in all NAWD tests.
9. Videos may not be submitted to be judged more than once; unless for a specific event where double judging is permitted.
10. b. Every "error" (wrong direction, wrong gait, etc.) shall be penalized as follows:
 - a. The first time by 2 points
 - b. The second time by 4 points
 - c. The third time the competitor is eliminated.
11. Movements that are not performed will receive a score of "0"
12. **A judges decision to eliminate or penalize a competitor is final.**

Participation

1. Membership is NOT required to participate in a NAWD Virtual or Live Show.
2. Divisions:
 - a. Youth - riders/handlers under the age of 18 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
 - b. Adult Amateur - riders/handlers 18 years or older that have never accepted money for riding, schooling, or showing someone else's horse.
 - c. Open - riders/handlers of the most experienced exhibitors, trainers and professional horsemen, but any amateur or youth can compete as well.
3. A Horse/Rider combination may enter no more than two consecutive levels in any NAWD test, at any one show.
4. All NAWD tests will be accommodating to any breed of horse/pony including mules and donkeys as well as gaited breeds and will be judged to the capabilities of each individual horse. Gaited horses and all gaited breeds are permitted in any NAWD test, riding or in-hand (the horse's intermediate gait will replace the jog/trot in the tests).
5. Horses of any age are permitted to compete in any of the NAWD Ground tests. No horse under the age of 2yrs old may be ridden in any NAWD Show, Virtual or Live.

Non-Competitive Entry

Riders may submit a test for judging through NAWD's 24-7 virtual testing system at any time for a reduced testing fee. Upon registering, the rider will choose whether they would like their test judged with or without scores.

*All rules stated apply!



NAWD Western Dressage & Ranch Horse

NAWD Western Dressage, Ranch Horse Program, Lead-line, Therapeutic, & All-Around Freestyle Show Rules (effective 2019)

In addition to the **NAWD** tests, riders may submit current USEF/WDAA western dressage tests for scoring. When submitting any current USEF/WDAA test, all USEF/WDAA Rules apply without exception. When performing any **NAWD Western Dressage** test, all USEF/WDAA Rules apply *with the following exceptions*.

PLEASE NOTE: At the discretion of the scoring judge, equipment used may be deemed inappropriate due to safety reasons for the horse and/or rider and may be cause for disqualification. If there is any doubt, please contact Amanda Lane-Sommer (Rules and Regulations Committee Chair) at northamericanwd@gmail.com for guidance prior to submitting your entry.

***Always make sure to compete with the current test for the current show year!**

Tack and Equipment: NAWD follows WDAA guidelines for tack and equipment with the following exceptions.

Saddles: NAWD follows WDAA guidelines for permitted saddles.

Headgear and Reins

1. Head gear and reins can be leather, synthetic leather, or nylon material of any color.
2. Snaffle bits are allowed at all levels.
3. Any bit that uses leverage (curb or snaffle with fixed rein attachment points) must be used with **ONE** hand only.

Equine Leg/Hoof Protection

1. Leg protection may be worn such as: polo bandages, dressage sport boots, neoprene leg boots, or any other leg protection that is designed to support the horse while riding. May be any color.
2. Bell boots or hoof boots designed for riding may be used.

Rider Attire

Informal attire is allowed under the following guidelines. Attire must be clean and presentable, without dirt, rips or tears. Any offensive material on any rider/horse attire will be cause for automatic disqualification.

1. A helmet designed for horse riding is required for therapeutic riders of all ages and all youth riders (under the age of 18 yrs).
2. Clean jeans without holes are permitted.
3. Short or long sleeved, solid colored shirt, with or without a collar is allowed. Any color is allowed. T-shirts with advertisements or screen prints are not allowed. Halter tops, midriff, or tank tops are not allowed.

5. Riding pants must be full length, close fitting trousers, breeches, jodhpurs, stretch pants or jeans. Shorts or baggy sweatpants are not allowed. Any solid color is allowed.
6. Short or long sleeved, solid colored shirt, with or without a collar is allowed. Any color is allowed. T-shirts with advertisements or screen prints are not allowed. Halter tops, midriff, or tank tops are not allowed.
7. Riding jackets may be worn but are not required. If appropriate, cold weather outerwear is allowed but jackets and vests must not fall below the waist. Overalls or snow pants are allowed. Long winter coats or trench coats are not allowed. Any color is allowed.

Lead-line Classes (Pre-Intro & Therapeutic)

1. Riders with Disabilities that ride in NAWD Therapeutic tests may not show in non-Therapeutic mounted classes, but the horse may be ridden in other classes by other exhibitors.
2. Lead line Dressage riders must be 3-10 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
3. Rider Assistance: Rider may be accompanied by an assistant that is 18 years of age or older and may have side-walkers as required for safety and security of the rider. The job of the assistant is not to lead the horse, but to guide the horse when necessary to ensure the rider's safety and to coach the rider on correct use of tack and application of the aids. The assistant is to hold a lead rope (leadline) that is at least 6 feet long at all times while the rider is mounted. The leadline may be attached to the noseband of the bridle or a halter or cavesson that is properly fitted and worn underneath or over the bridle. Under no circumstances may the leadline be attached directly to the bit. Attaching the leadline to the bit will result in immediate disqualification.
4. Coaching is allowed by assistant only.
5. While jogging, the rider may hold onto the horn if available.
6. Reins may be attached to the bit, bitless bridle, side rings of the halter, bosal, or sidepull. The reins may or may not be attached to the bit depending on rider level of experience, but the rider is to make an effort to retain control of the reins at all times.
7. Rider tack and attire must abide by the rules for NAWD Dressage or NAWD Western Dressage.

NAWD All -Around Freestyle

1. NAWD Freestyles may be performed with or without music. *If music is used for virtual rides, place the music player next to the video camera with the volume loud enough for the rider to hear.
2. These tests do NOT need to be performed within a Dressage court. Please use a safe, flat, level area.
3. Costumes are allowed but not required.
4. Any type of saddle is acceptable including bareback riding.
5. A time limit of 6 minutes will apply. If the rider goes over the limit, 2 points will be deducted from the total score.
6. Tests are written along with the different Dressage levels (Intro, Basic, Level 1-3) with required maneuvers remaining with the level of each test. Although NAWD Freestyle tests allow the rider the freedom to perform maneuvers, patterns or obstacles as they wish, please try to remain within the skill level of each test. At the discretion of the judge, a 2-point error may be given per maneuver if performed beyond the skill level of the test, horse and/or rider.
7. Rider must submit written description of each maneuver in the entire routine for the judge to have on hand when scoring.

Non-Competitive Entry

Riders may submit a test for judging through NAWD's 24-7 virtual testing system at any time for a reduced testing fee. Upon registering, the rider will choose whether they would like their test judged with or without scores.



NAWD Dressage

NAWD Dressage Show Rules (March 2019)

In addition to the **NAWD Dressage** tests, riders may submit current USEF/USDF dressage tests for scoring. When submitting any current USEF/USDF test, all USEF/USDF Rules apply without exception. When performing any **NAWD Dressage** test, all USEF/USDF Rules apply with the following exceptions.

PLEASE NOTE: At the discretion of the scoring judge, equipment used may be deemed inappropriate due to safety reasons for the horse and/or rider and may be cause for disqualification. If there is any doubt, please contact the DOD Leadership Committee for guidance prior to submitting your entry.

***Always make sure to compete with the current test for the current show year!**

Tack and Equipment

NAWD Dressage follows USDF guidelines for tack and equipment with the following exceptions. Any standard dressage or all-purpose english saddle may be used. You may also ride NAWD Dressage tests in traditional Spanish/baroque tack.

Equine Headgear

1. Bridles designed for use without nosebands are allowed in all levels. If a rider chooses to remove the noseband from a standard (noseband) bridle, it is strongly recommended for safety that the bridle have a throat latch.
2. It is permissible to remove the flash from any bridle if desired.
3. Bitless bridles designed specifically for horse riding are permitted in all levels. The bridle must be designed for two handed riding with one rein attached to each side. Examples are side-pull, cross-under bitless, English hackamore, or a riding cavesson. Halters are not allowed. Bosals or hackamores that have rein attachment under the jaw are not allowed.
4. Head gear and reins can be leather, synthetic leather, or nylon material of any color.
5. Snaffle bridles or bitless bridles are allowed in any level. Double bridles may be used in higher levels *but are not required*.

Equine Leg/Hoof Protection

1. Leg protection may be worn such as: polo bandages, dressage sport boots, neoprene leg boots, or any other leg protection that is designed to support the horse while riding. May be any color.
2. Bell boots or hoof boots designed for riding may be used.

Rider Attire

Informal attire is allowed under the following guidelines. Attire must be clean and presentable, without dirt, rips or tears. Any offensive material on any rider/horse attire will be cause for automatic disqualification.

1. A helmet designed for horse riding is required in all levels.
2. Any footwear designed for horse riding is allowed. Footwear must have a heeled sole. Sneakers, slip-ons, mules, flip-flops or bare feet are not allowed.
3. English style spurs complying with USEF rules may be used *but are not required* in any level.
4. Full length english style chaps and half-chaps with paddock boots or other suitable footwear are allowed.

NAWD Lead-Line and Therapeutic tests

1. Riders with Disabilities that ride in NAWD Therapeutic tests may not show in non-Therapeutic mounted classes, but the horse may be ridden in other classes by other exhibitors.
2. Leadline Dressage riders must be 3-10 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
3. Rider Assistance: Rider may be accompanied by an assistant that is 18 years of age or older and may have side-walkers as required for safety and security of the rider. The job of the assistant is not to lead the horse, but to guide the horse when necessary to ensure the rider's safety and to coach the rider on correct use of tack and application of the aids. The assistant is to hold a lead rope (leadline) that is at least 6 feet long at all times while the rider is mounted. The leadline may be attached to the noseband of the bridle or a halter or cavesson that is properly fitted and worn underneath or over the bridle. Under no circumstances may the leadline be attached directly to the bit. Attaching the leadline to the bit will result in immediate disqualification.
4. Coaching is allowed by assistant only.
5. While jogging, the rider may hold onto the horn if available.
6. Reins may be attached to the bit, bitless bridle, side rings of the halter, bosal, or sidepull. The reins may or may not be attached to the bit depending on rider level of experience, but the rider is to make an effort to retain control of the reins at all times.
7. Rider tack and attire must abide by the rules for NAWD Dressage or NAWD Western Dressage.

NAWD All -Around Freestyle

1. NAWD Freestyles may be performed with or without music. *If music is used for virtual rides, place the music player next to the video camera with the volume loud enough for the rider to hear.
2. These tests do NOT need to be performed within a Dressage court. Please use a safe, flat, level area.
3. Costumes are allowed but not required.
4. Any type of saddle is acceptable including bareback riding.
5. A time limit of 6 minutes will apply. If the rider goes over the limit, 2 points will be deducted from the total score.
6. Tests are written along with the different Dressage levels (Intro, Basic, Level 1-3) with required maneuvers remaining with the level of each test. Although NAWD Freestyle tests allow the rider the freedom to perform maneuvers, patterns or obstacles as they wish, please try to remain within the skill level of each test. At the discretion of the judge, a 2 point error may be given per maneuver if performed beyond the skill level of the test, horse and/or rider.
7. Rider must submit written description of each maneuver in the entire routine for the judge to have on hand when scoring.



NAWD Trail & Ground

NAWD Six Feet on the Ground, NAWD Trail, In-Hand Trail, & Long Reining Show Rules (effective 2019)

PLEASE NOTE: At the discretion of the scoring judge, equipment used may be deemed inappropriate due to safety reasons for the horse and/or rider and may be cause for disqualification. If there is any doubt, please contact Amanda Lane-Sommer (Rules and Regulations Committee Chair) at northamericanwd@gmail.com for guidance prior to submitting your entry.

***Always make sure to compete with the current test for the current show year!**

Ground Tests 2019

(In-Hand Trail, Six Feet on the Ground, Long Reining)

Tack and Equipment

- 1) The Horse may be shown in any type of halter and lead rope or cavesson for NAWD Six Feet on the Ground & In-Hand Trail tests. No chains are allowed on any tack used in ANY NAWD Ground test. Liberty is also allowed.
- 2) For Long Reining, the horse may be shown in any type of long lining equipment as long as it consists of 2 unconnected lines running directly from the hands of the handler, through some type of ring or surcingle, to the bit of the horse. Running lines through the stirrups of a saddle is not acceptable.
- 3) Bits used for Long Reining MUST be a broken, smooth mouth snaffle or bitless bridle. Snaffle bits may not contain any modifications that cause leverage (such as points that fix the reins to the bit)
- 4) No horse may be shown with a curb or spade bit in any NAWD Ground test.
- 5) Side reins or draw reins are not allowed.
- 6) The handler may use an artificial aid such as a whip, crop, lariat, or training stick.
- 7) The handler may touch the horse with hand or artificial aid to give the appropriate cues.
- 8) All age horses and handlers are allowed.

Equine Leg/Hoof Protection

Leg protection may be worn such as: polo bandages, dressage sport boots, neoprene leg boots, or any other leg protection that is designed to support the horse while riding. May be any color. Bell boots or hoof boots designed for riding may be used.

NAWD Trail Tests 2018-2019

NAWD Trail tests can be submitted following tack regulations for NAWD Dressage or NAWD Western Dressage.

Handler Attire

Informal attire is allowed under the following guidelines. Attire must be clean and presentable, without dirt, rips or tears. Any offensive material on any rider/horse attire will be cause for automatic disqualification.

1. A hat or helmet is allowed but not required.
2. Pants, jeans, breeches or chaps are allowed. Clean jeans without holes are permitted.
3. Handler must wear boots, no tennis shoes.
4. Absolutely NO SPURS. Wearing spurs while long-reining can be extremely dangerous as it is easy to catch the lines on your spurs and risk tripping or being dragged by the horse.
5. Short or long sleeved, solid colored shirt, with or without a collar is allowed. Any color is allowed. T-shirts with advertisements or screen prints are not allowed. Halter tops, midriff, or tank tops are not allowed.