



ATHLETESWITHOUTLIMITS



# USA Athlete Guide 5th Virtus International Para Equestrian Video Competition

*Entry into the 5th Annual Virtus Para-Equestrian Video Competition for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities is open until October 2021. With the COVID pandemic still affecting areas differently please prioritize the safety of riders by following your local area and facility guidelines at all times.*



## About the Event

To compete in this annual event, athletes should be able to complete one or more of the accepted FEI Para Dressage tests listed in the event packet at their home facility between June 5 - October 5th, 2021 and have a parent/trainer/other record a video by following the guidelines provided. (Videos of tests judged in another competition may not be entered.)

As the USA Member of Virtus, Athletes Without Limits manages the entry process for US riders. Multiple videos may be submitted for review by our Athletes Without Limits US National Equestrian Director to help determine the best entries to submit to Virtus.

## Age Groups & Eligibility

The event is open to **Senior or Youth** (up to the age of 21, birthday before end of the year) riders.

Competition will be held for all three Virtus eligibility groups:

- **II1** Intellectual Disability (IQ 75 or lower, Significant Limitations in Adaptive Behavior, Age of onset by 18)
- **II2** Intellectual Disability w/significant additional impairment (including Tri21 Down Syndrome)
- **II3** Autism+ (IQ 76 or higher and/or does not meet II1 Criteria)

New US Athletes who have not already done so should complete [National Athlete Eligibility Application](#) (\$50).

## Event Dates

The competition is open from June 5th 2021 and all entries must be submitted by the Virtus member organizations for each country no later than midnight (GMT) on 5th October 2021. To validate that all tests have been recorded in the qualifying period (**June 5 - October 5th, 2021**) a newspaper with the date clearly visible must be shown at the beginning of each video recording. Virtus will announce results **October 19th, 2021**.

## Key Entry Dates for US Athletes

- ✓ **By July 15, 2021: Submit Intent to Enter Form:** [athleteswithoutlimits.org/event/2021-virtus-equestrian](https://athleteswithoutlimits.org/event/2021-virtus-equestrian)
- ✓ **By July 15, 2021: New athletes should also apply for Eligibility:** [www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/eligibility](https://www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/eligibility)
- ✓ **By October 1, 2021: Pay entry fees and upload your entry videos:** (AWL will email you instructions)



# Dressage Test/Skills Required

## Senior Division Dressage Tests:

Riders can choose **one or two** of the following tests, all ridden on a **20x40m arena**, outdoor arena preferred. If an indoor arena is used, it must provide enough space for proper video recording. The tests will be judged separately.

NOTE: In all tests the Halt in the first movement is skipped.

- **FEI Grade 4 Introductory Test B** *\*required for Senior Team Competition*
- **FEI Grade 4 Novice A** *\*required for Senior Team Competition*
- **FEI Grade 2 Novice A**

*\*For inclusion in the Senior Team competition, riders should provide videos of the Grade 4 Introductory Test B and Grade 4 Novice A Test. Teams are made up of three riders. [Athletes Without Limits will discuss with US riders whether or not entering the Team competition is viable.]*

## Youth Division Dressage Tests:

The youth division is for riders up to the age of 21 (birthday before end of the year). Riders can choose **one or two** of the following tests all ridden on a **20x40m arena**, outdoor arena preferred. If an indoor arena is used, it must provide enough space for proper video recording. The tests will be judged separately.

NOTE: In all tests the Halt in the first movement is skipped.

- **FEI Grade 2 Introductory A** *\*required for Youth Team Competition*
- **FEI Grade 2 Novice A** *\*required for Youth Team Competition*
- **FEI Grade 4 Introductory A**

*\*For inclusion in the Youth Team competition, riders have to provide videos of the Grade 2 Introductory Test A and Grade 2 Novice A Test. Teams are made up of three riders. [Athletes Without Limits will discuss with US riders whether or not entering the Team competition is viable.]*

**Download the most recent versions of each test from the FEI Para Equestrian website at:**  
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/p-e-dressage/tests>



# Event Rules

## Entries

Entries are invited from athletes in II1, II2 and II3 eligibility groups in Youth or Senior competition. The II3 group is still considered demonstration.

Entries must be made through through the Virtus member organization [which is Athletes Without Limits for USA.] Riders must hold National or International Virtus eligibility and appear on the Virtus Master List with a valid annual competition license.

## Entry Fees

The event entry fee of GBP 55 [\$80 USD] will not be refunded once entries that have been accepted. For entries that are not accepted, entry fees will be refunded and Virtus will state reason.

## Arena

Tests should be recorded in a 20 x 40 m Arena. An outdoor arena is preferred. If an indoor arena is used, it must provide enough space for proper video recording.

## Dress and Tack

Competition gear should be worn as stated in the FEI Para Dressage Rules, but the riders may wear Jodhpur boots and black or brown half chaps. Gloves have to be worn.

## Bridles & Tack

- While double bridles are allowed, snaffle bridles should be preferred.
- No auxiliary reins are allowed. Use of auxiliary reins leads to disqualification.
- The horses must wear bandages.
- For the use of spurs, whips and compensating aids please refer to the VIRTUS Para Dressage Rules.
- Horses and ponies can be ridden by more than one rider, but not more than two riders in a team.

## Awards

Riders placed in rank 1 to 6 will be provided with rosettes and a certification showing their rank and score. There will be no prize money given out.

## Videos

- Videos of tests may not be entered if they have already been judged at a competition. If a video is suspected to have been taken at a competition, the rider will be disqualified. Therefore, while riders are encouraged to wear regular competition outfit, the horse has to wear bandages.
- The person filming must stand behind C as far as possible, but will have to zoom in when the rider is at A. The whole horse has to be seen all times.
- The video must be taken in landscape format in one shot, no cuts allowed. Sound must be recorded to make sure no coaching is taking place during the test. A commander is allowed.
- To validate that all tests have been recorded in the qualifying period (June 5 - October 5th, 2021) please show a newspaper with the date clearly visible at the beginning of each recording.

## Rules & Judging

- Horses & ponies can be ridden by more than one rider, but not more than 2 riders/team.
- This event is organized in accordance with the [Virtus 7.12 Para Dressage Rules](#) (March 2021) and in accordance with the [FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse](#).
- Entries will be judged by 2 or 3 FEI Para Dressage judges. The decisions of the judges are final.
- Errors will be handled as stated on the test sheet.

## Acceptance

Making an entry constitutes acceptance of the VIRTUS Para Dressage Rules. Entrants also agree to Virtus using pictures and videos in marketing and promotion such as press release, social media and website.

## Team Competition

Teams are made up of three riders from the same nation. If a nation enters more than three riders, the scores of the best three riders count. The riders of the top three teams/nations of the competition will get rosettes.



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## Steps to Enter for USA Athletes

*Note: The entry information below is for Virtus athletes from the United States — Athletes from other countries should reach out to their Virtus member at [www.virtus.sport](http://www.virtus.sport).*

### ✓ Step 1: Complete Intent to Enter Form by July 15th

#### [CLICK THIS LINK TO COMPLETE ONLINE ENTRY FORM](#)

You do not need to pay the entry fee or have your video complete to do so. By completing the form early we can determine if we'll have enough USA entries (3) for the team competition.

NEW athletes should also submit a [National Eligibility Application](#) by July 15th, 2021 to ensure completion in time for this event.

### ✓ Step 2: Receive Entry Invoice by Email due Oct 1, 2021

After you submit the entry form, Athletes Without Limits will send you a **personalized email invoice** for the \$80 event entry fee (and \$36 Virtus License Fee/Renewal if that applies) which is due when you submit your Video entries. The email will also provide instructions on how to upload your videos.

### ✓ Step 3: Record & Upload Your Entry Videos by October 1, 2021

Your personalized emailed will include detailed instructions on how to upload your videos to Athletes Without Limits. Multiple videos can be submitted for review by our US Equestrian Director to help determine the best entries to submit.

While the global video submission deadline is October 5th (midnight GMT) — Athletes Without Limits should received US athlete's videos by October 1st, 2021 to ensure adequate time to review. Athletes Without Limits will collect and submit all US videos and will submit them to Virtus as the US Team.



#### **About Athletes Without Limits USA Equestrian Program**

*As the US Member of Virtus, we launched the [Athletes Without Limits Equestrian Program](#) in 2017 to organize and assist US Equestrians interested in participating in Virtus Dressage competitions for athletes with intellectual impairment. At the local, regional, and national levels our goal is to develop competitive opportunities for US equestrians that include a variety of disciplines and skill levels. We encourage new athletes interested in competing who are riding independently at the walk, trot and canter and have reached proficiency in dressage OR an equestrian sport other than dressage to [contact us](#) to develop a plan for transitioning into Virtus dressage competition.*