



EQUESTRIAN

EQUESTRIAN made its debut appearance at the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games. Riders from 16 countries participated in the 1996 Games and by Athens 2004, the number of Paralympic equestrian riders had nearly doubled.

BASIC RULES

Para-equestrian dressage is the only equestrian discipline included in the Paralympic Games program. It is conducted under the same basic rules as conventional dressage, but with riders divided into different competition grades based on their functional abilities to ensure a fair playing field.

Para-equestrian dressage requires riders to compete in an individual test, team test and if qualified based on combined score of the individual and team test, the athlete may ride in the freestyle test. All events are mixed gender.

RING DIMENSIONS

Riders in Grades I, II, and III, compete in a 20x40 meter arena. Grade IV and V riders perform in the standard 20x60 meter dressage arena.

EQUIPMENT

Competitors compete on horses for the competition and must wear appropriate equipment as stipulated in the FEI Para Dressage Rules. They are only permitted the use of special equipment when this has been formally documented and approved.

Riders with a visual impairment may use audible signals around the arena perimeters.

GETTING STARTED

We encourage you to get started by connecting with a local adaptive sports organization for equestrian or to get involved in your local equestrian club. To find a list of clubs in your area, please visit <https://uspara.us/findaclub>.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification determines which athletes are eligible to compete and how athletes are grouped together for competition. If an athlete has a Paralympic eligible impairment, the athlete may be eligible for a classification appointment. Once an athlete is ready to compete regionally or nationally, an athlete should seek national classification.

For more information on Para-equestrian, please visit <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/para-equestrian>.

PARALYMPIC ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

- Ataxia, Athetosis and Hypertonia
- Impaired Muscle Power
- Impaired Passive Range of Movement
- Limb Deficiency
- Leg Length Difference
- Short Stature
- Visual Impairment

PARALYMPIC GRADES

- **Grade I:** Athletes in this class are primarily wheelchair users with impairment of all four limbs.
- **Grade II:** This class is primarily wheelchair users with poor trunk balance.
- **Grade III:** This grade may have severe movement and mobility impairment involving the trunk or slight leg impairment.
- **Grade IV:** Athletes in this grade are usually able to walk without support. They may have moderate impairment in 4 limbs or severe arm impairment.
- **Grade V:** Athletes usually have impairment in one or two limbs or some visual impairment.

PARALYMPIC TESTS

- Novice Test
- Team Test
- Championship Individual Test
- Freestyle Test