

## 2021 Test Riding Clinics and Virtual Challenge!

(\*REVISED 6/6/21)

*Unsure if you are ready to show or if it is time to move up a level?*

*Can't get out to shows due to COVID-19?*

*Ride a test at home and have a judge give you scores and/or comments!*



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the safety of our membership, Dressage Niagara has decided to offer a monthly Ride-A-Test Virtual Clinic and Year-End Member Challenge for 2021. As we did last year, we will offer opportunities to work on your riding safely at home and submit your videos for a judge to review and give feedback, but this time, there's year-end prizes!

### Part 1: The Clinic

**How to Enter the Ride-A-Test Virtual Clinic:** All submissions will be accepted by email and must be sent to [info@dressageniagara.com](mailto:info@dressageniagara.com). All entries must be received by the last day of each month (June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021) by 11:59 pm.

Please be sure to include:

- Your name
- Your horse's name
- YouTube video link for each test
- Identify which test(s) you are riding
- Division (Junior or Senior)
- Date that the test was ridden.

**Cost:** \$15 per test for members and \$20 per test for non-members.

Payment will be accepted by e-transfer to [info@dressageniagara.com](mailto:info@dressageniagara.com); password "dressage". Late entries may be subject to a \$10 fee per entry and added with the approval of the judge/executive.

**Classes/Tests Offered (unsanctioned):** Riders can submit up to one video of each test (Test of Choice) of any CADORA or WSDAC level per horse per month, including Freestyles.



CADORA tests: <http://www.cadora.ca/dressage-tests/>

Western-Style Dressage tests:

<http://www.westernstyledressage.ca/rules-tests-1.html>

#### Judges:

- June – Dorita Peer (SS - Senior)
- July – Lynne Poole (SM - Medium)
- August – Rebecca Schoenhardt (SB - Basic)
- September – Peta Christen (SB - Basic)

#### Judging, Scoring and Results:

The videos submitted in **June** and **July** will receive judge's comments and feedback and emailed to all participants the following week. No scores will be provided.

Tests from **August** and **September** will be judged and scored on standard test sheets, complete with comments and scores. Score sheets will be scanned and emailed to all participants the following week. Monthly test results will not be recorded.

Early submissions may be reviewed prior to the deadline. Your video, scores and comments will not be posted publicly by Dressage Niagara (via social media or on our website); however, you're welcome to share your results and tests on social media.

**How to Record Your Video:** You do not need a special camera to record videos. A cell phone video will work!



**Step 1.** Using a phone (in landscape view) or video camera, have a helper video your ride from the letter C (outside of the ring), in an outdoor arena or a short grass field during the daytime (for best results, the camera should not be facing into the sun) OR, in an indoor or covered arena if the lighting is good (the better the lighting conditions, the easier for the judge to score/comment on your test). Make sure the sound is turned ON.

**Step 2.** Without stopping the video, speak into the camera stating your name and your horse's name, the division, level and test you are riding as well as the date, then continue without editing (no stopping and



starting) into the riding arena. This may also be done by the videographer or the test reader. If riding in an indoor arena or a restricted space, you do not need to enter the arena at A; the entrance maybe done within the riding arena space with a simple turn at A.

**Step 3.** As soon as the test is finished, the allow the horse to exit the arena on a long rein, then end the video.

**Step 4.** Upload your video to YouTube and submit your email entry as outlined above. An email is sufficient as an entry; no official entry form is required, but the above info is required (see step 2).

## **Part 2: The Challenge**

### **How to Enter the Ride-A-Test Virtual Challenge:**

At the end of the season, members can submit their best 3 test sheets to [info@dressageniagara.com](mailto:info@dressageniagara.com); the average of all 3 tests will determine High Point Champion, awarded by Level and Division (Jr or Sr).

**Each rider submitting a challenge entry will receive a prize from Dressage Niagara.**

Any 3 different tests per level may be submitted, but one test must be the highest test for that level (E.g., CADORA Training Level Test "D"). *Exception:* For the Prix Caprilli, only 2 tests need to be submitted. There are no minimum number of tests required to be entered per month.

**The Freestyle Video Challenge:** a separate High Point Champion award will be given to the highest percentage test of an individual rider per division (Jr or Sr). Pas de Deux and Quadrille tests may not be submitted. Freestyle music must be audible on video.

**The TIP Ride-A-Test Challenge:** separate High Point Champion awards will be given to Thoroughbred Incentive Program registered horses. Entries must include their TIP number with their challenge submission.

### **Requirements:**

- A minimum score of 50% per test is required.
- Test sheets must be signed or initialed by the judge, approved scribe, or Dressage Niagara executive.
- Submissions must include scores from more than one judge. *Exception:* the Freestyle Challenge only requires one test from one judge.



**Janet Henderson**  
905-658-2658  
janet\_arwen@icloud.com  
www.rivendellsportshorses.ca

EC Senior Basic Dressage judge  
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EC/USEF/AHA Senior National/Registered/National Arabian judge  
EC Hunter, Hunt Seat Eq., Hack, Saddle Seat judge

- Champions will be decided by total scores and if scores are tied, the award will be given to the competitor with the higher Collective Marks.
- You must be a Dressage Niagara member before **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, and in good standing; volunteer hours will not be required for 2021.
- Challenge entries must be received **by 11:59 pm October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

**Rules to Keep in Mind**

1. Have fun. The Ride-A-Test clinics and Year-End Challenge are to help you gauge how your training is coming along and discover areas that require work.
2. All videos must be ridden in the month submitted. Example: June clinic entries must be ridden in June.
3. All tests do not require a standard 20- x 60-meter space; however, the riding area should be well marked with cones, poles, schooling fences or another type of marker, and letters should be visible on the video with respect to the movements that the horse is performing. Example: All Levels should have the letters A.K.E.H.C.M.B.F well marked; Third Level CADORA and higher tests as well as WSDAC Level 1 and higher, should also include the letters R.S.V.P. Corners should be visible, the arena or riding area does not have to be enclosed. If you are unsure if your riding space would be suitable, please contact us.
4. Videos of tests must be one continuous filming, unedited from start to finish. The camera can either follow the rider/horse or be stationary. Do not zoom into the horse/rider since the arena markers need to be visible during the test.
5. If the judge determines that the horse appears lame, the judge has the right to excuse the ride and not continue scoring. Judge will make notes on the score sheet indicating their observations.
6. Horses and riders are required to abide by standard equipment rules for dressage as outlined their respective associations. You acknowledge that, by submitting your entry, you



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- agree to abide by standard rules of fair play and for the welfare of the horse.
7. You must wear an ASTM/SEI-approved helmet.
  8. Violation of any of these rules may result in the refusal to accept the entry or a non-refundable scratch.
  9. We will make every effort to judge your test fairly with the knowledge that there are inherent challenges to judging performance on video that makes it different from the real-life experience.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can I have a test reader?** Yes, the test may be called.

**Can my coach offer tips/advice while I'm riding my test?** No, coaching during the test is not allowed. Headsets are not permitted.

**Can I record my test without any sound?** No, the natural background noise for the test should be audible.

**Do I have to wear show attire for my test?** You can if you want to! Suitable schooling show or clinic attire for your discipline, weather appropriate, with a heeled boot is accepted. Half chaps may be worn. ASTM/SEI-approved helmets must be worn, no exceptions.

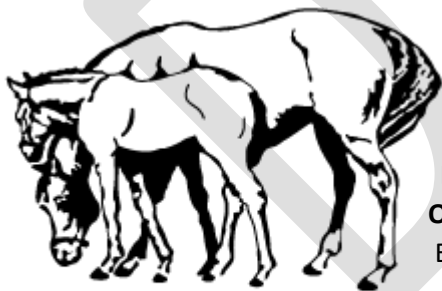
**Can my horse wear polos?** Yes. Horses can wear boots or polos.

**Do I need to braid my horse?** No, it is not necessary, but it is fun to practice!

**Can I wear spurs or use a whip?** You can use spurs and/or a whip if you abide by standard equipment rules for dressage as outlined by their respective associations.

**Will I receive my test sheet after my ride?** Riders will receive detailed feedback (June/July) OR test sheets (Aug/Sept) from the judge in a scanned or electronic format via email.

**Will my score/feedback be posted?** No. It is your choice if you would like to share on social media.



**Can I enter the clinics if I am not a Dressage Niagara member?** Yes, but we hope that you can join our membership and try out for the Year-End Challenge!

**Do I have to be a member of any organizations like Equestrian Canada, Ontario Equestrian, WSDAC or CADORA?** No membership is required. Everyone can participate.

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**Do I need a special camera to film this?** No, any camera or phone with video capability will work. The higher the quality, the better. Please remember to video in landscape format.

**What if I want to ride an EC test?** EC tests are not available for unsanctioned events and virtual clinics. Those wanting feedback and scoring from an EC test please visit the EC website and check out the Am I Ready Series offered by EC <https://www.equestrian.ca/sport/dressage/programs>



**Still have questions?** Email Dressage Niagara at [info@dressageniagara.com](mailto:info@dressageniagara.com).

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