

Virtual Test Riding Clinic

Are you unsure if you're ready to show or if it's time to move up a level? Dressage Niagara presents our first ever Virtual Ride-A-Test Clinic! Ride a test at home and have a judge give you full comments and scores just like you would at a sanctioned show.

Entry Period: Tests may be ridden and submitted between the dates of June 1st to June 26th, 2020.

How to Enter: All submissions will be accepted by email. You must include a YouTube link of your test video within the body of the email to info@dressageniagara.com no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, June 26th, 2020. Please be sure to include your first and last name with your video link as well as the test you will be riding.

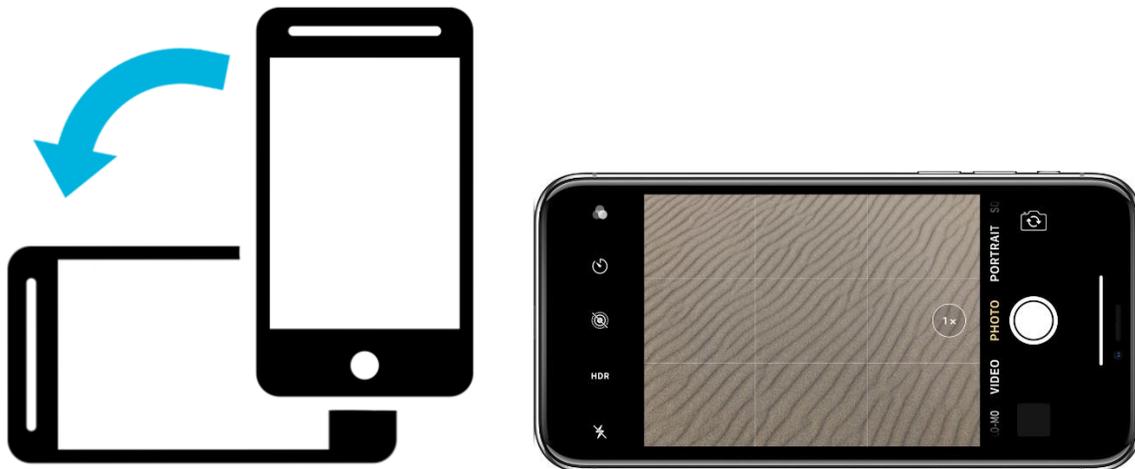
Cost: \$25 per test for members and \$35 for non-members. Payment will be accepted by e-transfer to info@dressageniagara.com; password is "dressage".

Classes/Tests Offered: Riders can submit no more than 2 different tests (test of choice) of any CADORA, EC, FEI or WSDAC level per horse.

Judging and Scoring: The tests will be judged and scored on standard tests sheets, complete with comments.

Results: Score sheets will be scanned and emailed to all participants the following week. Your video, score(s) and test sheet 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 Letter C (outside of the ring), ideally in an outdoor arena or short grass field during the daytime. For best results, the camera should not be facing into the sun. An indoor or covered arena may be used if the lighting is good—the better the lighting conditions, the easier for the judge to score 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 level and test you are riding and then continue, without editing (no stop and starting) into the riding arena. This may also be done by the videographer or the test reader.

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.

Rules to Keep in Mind

1. Have fun. This clinic is to help you gauge how your training is coming along and discover areas that require work.
2. All uploaded videos must be ridden on or before June 26th, 2020.
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: EC Introductory and Training Level test should have the letters A.K.E.H.C.M.B.F well marked; EC First Level and higher tests should also include the letters R.S.V.P. Corners should be visible, the arena or riding area does not have to be enclosed.
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.
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 by Equestrian Canada or the Western Style Dressage Association of Canada. You acknowledge that, by submitting your entry, you 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 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.



Our JUDGE for June 2020: Janet Henderson*

Horse show judge with 30 years experience, all over North America. USDF “L” graduate with distinction in 2005. EC dressage judge since 2005 and now a Senior Basic judge. I have 7 judging licenses with EC and USEF. Coach to FEI gold at NAJYRC, and coach of riders in international shows for dressage in Raleigh, NC, and Chicago, IL., to third level. Bred, raised and trained my mare to PSG. Over the decades have raised and trained our horses to third level dressage, working hunter and endurance to FEI level of competition. Ride with my long-time coach, Joanne Copeland and have had many opportunities to ride with Arthur Kottas Heldenberg and Ute Busse.

**Janet is not only a long-standing Dressage Niagara member, but is also an amazing sponsor and promoter of the club. She has kindly donated her services for this event to help with fundraising.*

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.

Can I record my test without any sound? Sound is preferred. The natural background sound 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 with a heeled boot is accepted. Half chaps may be worn. ASTM/SEI-approved helmets must be worn, no exception.

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

Do I need to braid my horse? No, it is not necessary.

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 EC or WSDAC.

Will I receive my test sheet after my ride? Riders will receive detailed feedback/test sheets from the judge in a scanned format via email.

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

Will you offer more Virtual Test Riding Clinics? If this first virtual show is a success, we’ll be offering more!

Can I enter if I’m not a Dressage Niagara member? Yes, but we hope that you can join our membership!

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

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.

Still have questions? Email Dressage Niagara at info@dressageniagara.com.

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