

Rules for Side Saddle Elegance and Animation-Spectacle classes for 2017

Intro:

The following rules are for side saddle Elegance and Animation-Spectacle competitions throughout France..

Elegance: Elegance is judged to be a combination of the harmony and aptitude of the pair horse/rider, lightness and freedom of movement.

Spectacle: Overview of the intention and whether it puts over that intended idea or sentiment.

(This Paragraph repeated on p.2.)

Summary

Arena: 40 x 20 in accordance with federal dressage rules

Safety, headgear and skirt/apron

Whichever category is chosen, safety rules appertaining to tack and outfit must be considered.

In addition, one must obey the specific rules established by the organiser of each particular competition.

When mounted riders must adhere to the rules of the Federation Francaise d'Equitation about safety hats. They are compulsory for junior riders. Adults riding without a safety hat at non-federal competitions do so at their own risk and have no recourse against the organisers or the Amazones de France in the event of a fall or any other incident due to not wearing a safety hat.

Safety hats are recommended for Elegance classes. If you choose to wear a safety hat, you cannot be penalised even if it is not disguised to suit your costume, including in 'Tradition' or 'Historic' classes.

It is compulsory to wear a skirt/apron covering the pommels, in all categories. It must be made so that it will remain in place correctly and it must have an opening for safety in the case of a fall.

Description of the theme and/or costume

Before the start of the competition, riders must hand in **2 copies** of the written description of their costume and the theme or tableau for a Spectacle class. (1 for the Artistic judge and 1 for the commentator).

Level of horse and Rider

Elegance and Spectacle classes are open to riders of all ages with a minimum level of Galop 2 – side saddle option – for juniors, and minimum level 4 for seniors (over 18s). Foreign riders must be at the equivalent level. To fulfil the idea of elegance, which implies a certain willingness, the horse must show all 3 paces correctly, in a good attitude and freedom of movement.

Obligatory movements

Minimum 12m in walk

Figure of 8 in trot

Circle 20m maximum in canter left

Circle 20m max in canter right

All movements of a higher level are permitted but will not be marked. Airs above the ground, school leaps, Spanish walk, etc are allowed if carried out correctly in accordance with classical training. It is up to the rider to ensure that conditions permit these movements to be carried out safely (without danger to the public or the horse).

Categories

The Elegance competition has 3 categories - Elegance Tradition

Elegance Historique

Elegance Fantaisie

The Animation-Spectacle competition has 2 categories – Cultural

Scenes from real or
imaginary life

(Paragraph in ‘box’ on p.1 repeated here)

a) Tradition

Costumes in this class are those from the 20th C and end of the 19th C, used for hunting, riding out, competing and also regional costumes e.g. Arlesienne, Camargue, Doma Vaquera, etc.

The costume is judged with reference to engravings, photos, historic costume archives, etc, handed in before the class, which must be accurately followed.

Attention will be paid to the appearance of the rider; the judge may take a close look at the different elements of the costume, the tack and overall turnout of the horse when compared to the given description/illustration.

b) Historic

Historic costumes must represent historic periods before the 20th C.

They will be judged with reference to engravings, paintings, photos, costume books, handed in with the entry and must be copied accurately.

Competitors must provide written descriptions, before the class, which allow the judge to check the accuracy of the details.

Unrealistic adaptations are not permitted.

Attention will be paid to the appearance of the rider; the judge may take a close look at the different elements of the costume, tack and overall turnout of the horse to compare with the evidence provided.

c) Fantasy

Costumes in this category are creative, but still elegant, inspired by legends, mythology, literature, cinema, cartoons, but also “Prix de Diane” type costumes.

d) Animation-Spectacle classes

There are 2 categories, to be presented as a tableau (with 0-5 “extras” permitted, which includes any animals)

- d1) Cultural: historic, cinema, literature, theatre
e.g. les guerres de Vendee (an 18th C rebellion)
- d2) Scenes from life: real or imaginary
e.g. hunting (the Meet), side saddle rider on the moon

In both categories the pair (horse/rider) present a mounted mini-tableau where the key is originality in keeping with good taste. The objective is to tell a story and/or inspire a reaction from the audience.

N.B. Costume: No rider can wear the same costume for more than 2 consecutive years at the same competition.

Tack

The horse’s tack is very important, especially in historic and traditional classes e.g. if you choose a Mexican costume, you should have an appropriate Mexican saddle/bridle etc.

Turnout of horse

The harmony of horse and rider is most important and the care taken over the horse is key: think about plaits, ribbons, rosettes, breastplates and other accessories to make your equine partner as elegant as yourself.

Beware: respect the period in Historic classes. Plaits (mane and tail) so beloved of dressage judges, did not exist before the 20th C (used +/- 1920 in show jumping). Thus, the need to provide a written explanation and visual evidence to justify your choice of turnout.

Of course certain breeds (e.g. Iberians) have their own traditions of turnout/beauty.

Music

The choice of music is very important as it is part **of** the overall harmony and counts in the final mark. The music must suit the chosen theme.

Time allowed

Elegance: Between 4min and 4’ 30 between the initial and final salutes. Entry of up to 30 secs allowed after the start of the music. 0.25 marks will be deducted for every second over the time.

Animation-Spectacle: Between 4’30 and 5 minutes between salutes. Entry of up to 30 seconds allowed after the start of the music. 0.25 points will be deducted for every second over the time.

Props: 30sec max for setting up props, 30 sec max for their removal.

“Extras” or Groom

In Elegance classes the rider can have the help of **one** groom. He/she is allowed to be in the arena from the entry to the first salute and from the final salute to the exit. He must leave the arena between the 2 salutes. However, the actions and costume of this

person do not count for the marks but any such groom must wear a costume appropriate to the theme. Only the side saddle competitor can be mounted.

Judges

The organiser is free to choose any judges, French or foreign, acceptable to the Amazones de France. It is recommended that there should be 2 judges, 1 for the technical marks and one for the artistic marks.

The names of the judges chosen by the organisers must be notified in advance so the competitors can choose whether or not to compete before them. In the event of a last minute problem, the organiser is free to choose another judge without warning the competitors.

Anyone of proven competence can ask to be listed as a judge for Elegance and Animation-Spectacle classes. They must be able to show solid knowledge of side saddle riding, equitation, history of costume, of materials and costume construction, and also have a good knowledge of culture, particularly the artistic aspects. These judges can judge both the technical and artistic aspects. Federal dressage judges can judge the technical aspects. The 'Amazones de France' association has the right to refuse to accept a judge whose knowledge seems inadequate.

Every year the Amazones de France association looks into the possibility of adding to the judges list and of setting up training sessions or judges workshops for those on the list.

If there is only one Elegance judge he/she shall complete both sections of the mark sheet.

If there are 2 judges (or more) one judges the artistic part and the other marks the technical part. In all cases the jury works together.

Placings

There are 2 separate mark sheets for Elegance and Animation-Spectacle classes. Places are decided on marks out of 300 or as a percentage by dividing the total by 3. The judge's decision (marks and places) is final.

The organiser must set out the places in each category but can add an extra classification for the under 18s – either for a combination of the 4 categories or a separate one for each category.

The riders placed must receive at least a rosette and a stable plaque, but additional prizes are always appreciated.

One third of the entries will be placed.