



An equestrian A to Z

Sunday, 26 August 2012 - 11:44

LONDON, 26 August - An equestrian A to Z, providing useful information for the Paralympic events beginning at Greenwich Park on Thursday, 30 August.

aid
A prompt given by a rider to his horse telling it to change gait and/or direction, using either the hands, legs, voice, or body weight.

Atlanta 1996)
The first time equestrian sport was included in the Paralympic Games.

Athens (2004)
The first time Paralympic games in which athletes were permitted to ride their own horses.

bit
The metal mouthpiece on a horse's bridle to which the reins are attached.

callers
Helpers who call out instructions to blind riders, enabling them to navigate the dressage arena.

commanders
In the case of intellectual impairment, visual impairment, or short-term memory loss, riders may have a commander to call their test.

compensatory equipment
In Paralympic dressage, some riders are permitted to use compensatory equipment, such as neck straps, enclosed stirrups, rein bars, etc, although permission must first be sought from a rider's own national federation.

dressage
The only riding event included in the Paralympic Games.

events
Paralympic dressage includes 11 events: five individual, five freestyle, and one team test.

field of play (FOP)
The dressage competition takes place in a 60m x 20m arena for grade IV athletes, or 40m x 20m (grades I-III).

flatwork
A term used to describe training, often used during the warm-up process.

freestyle
A rider-created dressage test, that sets pre-specified movements to music.

gait
Description of the pace of a horse: walk, trot, or canter.

grades
Paralympic athletes are classified according to their level of impairment: Ia is for an athlete whose impairment has the greatest impact on their riding ability; grade IV has the least impact.

half-pass
When a horse moves forwards and sideways at the same time, with a bend in the direction of movement.

harmony
What the judges are looking for between horse and rider during a dressage test.

impairment
The degree to which a rider's ability is affected.

judge
An official who manages a competition, ensures that competitors comply with the rules, and awards marks for each movement in a dressage test.

Kentucky
Where the 2010 world championships were held (at Lexington): Great Britain, Germany and Denmark all achieved team qualifying standards for London 2012 here.

letters
The letters that appear at designated points around a dressage arena: A-K-V-E-S-H-C-M-R-B-F-P

movement
The prescribed element of a dressage test, performed at a specific gait/pace, for which marks are awarded.

not performed
Failure to complete a specific movement within a dressage test.

Equestrian - General

Equestrian - General



Equestrian classifications explained

Wednesday, 29 August 2012 - 17:45

LONDON, 29 August - A basic guide to equestrian classifications at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Athletes competing in equestrian dressage are of mixed gender and divided into five groups, according to their level of disability. These groups are defined by 42 profiles of impairment.

Profile No.1 means almost no use in four limbs, the need to use a wheelchair, and usually poor trunk control. Profile No.42 refers to a non-specific impairment that is variable and difficult to measure; for example asthma, haemophilia, wear and tear of joints due to advancing age, fibromyalgia, and a generally debilitating disease.

A rider's mobility, strength, and coordination are assessed in order to establish their classification profile. Athletes with similar functional mobility profiles are grouped into five competition grades:

Grade Ia, Grade Ib, Grade II, Grade III and Grade IV.

Grade 1a is for athletes whose impairment has the greatest impact on their ability to ride, while grade IV is for athletes whose impairment has the least impact on their ability to ride.

PNS jl/sb

Equestrian team test grade II: SALVADE (ITA), BOWMAN (AUS), ARMITAGE (GBR)

Thursday, 30 August 2012 - 12:56

LONDON, 30 August - Comments from the grade II team test riders Francesca SALVADE (ITA) and Grace BOWMAN (AUS) competing in Paralympic dressage at Greenwich Park, and Marcus ARMITAGE (GBR), last amateur rider to win the Grand National in 1990 and a racing correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Francesca SALVADE (ITA) - Come On

On her horse, Come On:

"I'm very happy. I've only been riding my horse for four months and showjumping was my favourite thing."

On London and life in the village:

"Bellissimo."

Grace BOWMAN (AUS) - Kirby Park Joy

On her mare, Kirby Park Joy, bought by her father before his death two years ago:

"Of course she's very special to me and it's nice to do the job here. She was a bit tense and didn't like the big scoreboard ahead of us, so our score was much lower than usual."

On the tests to come:

"I enjoy the individual test best of all, but don't like the freestyle - it's my least favourite."

On London 2012 and Greenwich Park:

"It's perfect here. Everyone is so happy and they will do anything for you. Even the English are supporting the Aussies."

Marcus ARMITAGE (GBR)

On his impression of the test by Natasha BAKER (GBR) with Cabral:

"She looked a class above everyone else."

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Related Participants

Athletes

Natasha Baker (W/GBR/EQ)
Grace Bowman (W/AUS/EQ)
Francesca Salvade (W/ITA/EQ)

Horses

KIRBY PARK JOY (AUS)
COME ON (ITA)
CABRAL (GBR)

Related NOCs

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ITA - Italy

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