



Virginia Dressage Association

in cooperation with the United States Dressage Federation

presents

“L” Education Program

PART I: A Judge’s Perspective Louisa, Virginia

Developed by the USDF Judges’ Committee, this program teaches participants to evaluate the correct training of dressage horses. It prepares graduates for entry into USDF’s “r” License Program.

Are you a dressage rider, trainer, competitor, or spectator who wants to better understand the judging process? Ever wondered why you got that “6” and not a “7”? Would you like to improve your own scores? Better understand dressage fundamentals and biomechanics? Are you interested in becoming a judge?

... the L Program is the place to start!

The L Program consists of two parts, each having 3 sessions. **Part 1 – “A Judge’s Perspective” is open to all USDF Members and is the educational foundation** of the program. It consists of classroom sessions (lecture and video) with live demonstration rides.

PROGRAM GOALS

This program has been designed with several goals in mind:

1. To give competitors, trainers, instructors, and other dressage enthusiasts greater insight into the evaluative techniques of judging dressage.
2. To meet a requirement to enter the USDF/USEF “r” Dressage Judge Training Program.
3. To qualify individuals to judge schooling shows.
4. Provide continuing education for licensed judges and “L” graduates.

This well-designed training program takes a systemic and orderly approach to introduce judging, explain the scoring system, review the rules, and explain the biomechanics of horse gaits and the rider position. This educational training program features USDF “S” Judges and approved “L” program faculty members.

DATES

December 14-15, 2024: Session A

Introduction to Judging and Biomechanics

February 8-9, 2025: Session B

Judging Criteria for Gaits and Paces, Movements, and Figures

March 22-23, 2025: Session C

Collective Marks, Equitation, Rider Biomechanics and Basics

LOCATION

All three sessions include classroom and “live horse” learning. Sessions will take place at:

Hilton Garden Inn
1793 Richmond Road
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Old Raptor Farm
1815 E. Green Springs Road
Louisa, VA 23093

PARTICIPANT SELECTION:

1. Must be a USDF member. Group or participating memberships are accepted.
2. Applicants must commit to attending all three sessions and submit payment in full for all.
3. No applications will be accepted over the phone. Applicants must complete and mail application form with payment in full for all sessions.

COST

Participants

\$1000 (all three sessions) for VADA members

\$1050 (all three sessions) for non-VADA members

Participants must attend all three sessions to apply to Part 2. A maximum of 30 Participants will be accepted. Application and fees must be received by October 12, 2024. Lunch on both days is included in the registration fee.

Auditors

\$90 per session for VADA members

\$100 per session for non-VADA members

Lunch on both days is included in the registration fee.

Demonstration Riders

There is no cost for participating as a demonstration rider and riders interesting in auditing the classroom portion of the session may do so for no charge. On-site stabling is available at our host farm at no cost to riders; stabling fees are sponsored by VADA. Demonstration riders are needed at Training, First, and Second Levels. Horses may be showing above the level but will be asked to demonstrate lower-level movements or test components. Lunch on both days is included for demonstration riders.

POINTS OF CONTACT & APPLICATIONS

For further information contact Kat Sepka, krsepka@gmail.com, (585) 350-5612.

For registration contact Becky Buehren, beckybuehren@gmail.com, (804) 514-5221.

APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY MAIL.

Registration forms are available at www.virginiadressage.org. Mail application and payment to Becky Buehren at 7279 Figuly Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Checks payable to VADA.

Accommodations

Hilton Garden Inn*
1793 Richmond Road
Charlottesville, VA 22911
(434) 979-4442

Best Western Plus Crossroads Inn & Suites
135 Wood Ridge Terrace
Zion Crossroads, Virginia 22942
(540) 832-1700

Hampton Inn Zion Crossroads
10800 James Madison Highway
Gordonsville, Virginia 22942
(434) 207-2354

**Discounted room block available; information provided to attendees via e-mail.*

Updates, final schedules, and any changes will be updated on VADA's website. Please check there often.