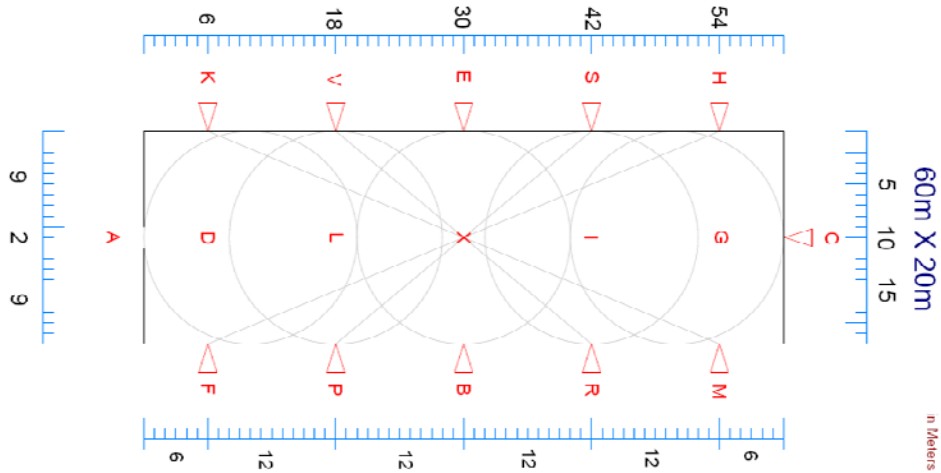




ARENA SETUP



Based on 31 Dec 2008 USEF Rules

Arena Foot "A" in Meters



The Arena – DR126.7



a. Ground, size, distance from public, enclosure:

– Flat and Level Ground:

- The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible.
- It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall in no case exceed 0.50 meters.
- It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall in no case be more than 0.20 meters.

– Sizes of the arena:

- Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure.
- **The Standard [Large] Arena:**
 - 60 meters long and 20 meters wide.
 - The following must be held in a Standard Arena: Federation First Level tests (except Test 1), Second Level tests, Third Level tests, Fourth Level tests; FEI tests; and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena. In addition, Federation/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes at all levels must be held in a Standard Arena.
- **The Small Arena: 40 meters long and 20 meters wide.**

– Distance between the arena and the public:

- It is recommended that arenas be separated from the public by a distance of not less than 15 meters.
- For indoor competitions, the minimum distance should in principle be 3 meters.



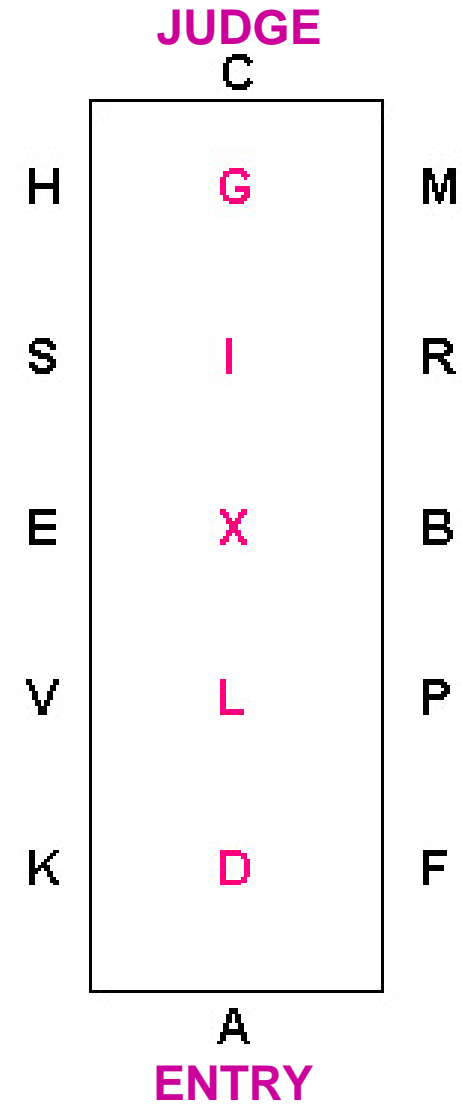
The Arena – DR126.7



a. Ground, size, distance from public, enclosure, continued:

– Enclosure height and materials:

- The enclosure itself should consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high [11.811 inches].
- The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled.
- Arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury.
- Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed.
- The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove to let the competitors in and out of the arena in a suitable way.
- The part of the fence at A can remain open except at Federation/USDF Championship Competitions.
- The letter A should be placed at least five meters away from the arena.
- No publicity is permitted anywhere on the arena fence.



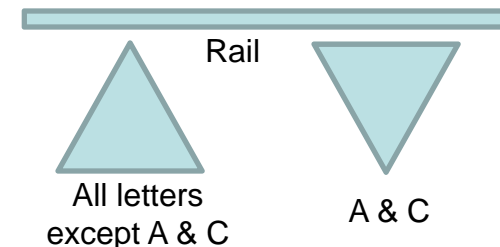


The Arena – DR126.7



b. Letters:

- The letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters [1.64 feet] from the fence and clearly marked.
- So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned.
- It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena.
- [When arena letters are a triangular-shaped cone, except for A and C the point of the cone faces the rail. For A and C, a flat surface faces the rail.]





The Arena – DR126.7



c. Center Line:

– Marking the Center Line:

- If marked, the center line, throughout its length, should be as clearly marked as possible, without however, being of a nature to frighten the horses.
- [Common Methods:
 - On a grass arena, the center line should be mowed shorter than at the other parts of the arena.
 - On a sand arena, the center line should be rolled or raked in a suitable way.]

– Grass Arenas:

- A grass arena is not permitted for USEF/USDF Championship classes, Federation Junior Team Championships, and USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials and observation classes.
- Grass arenas are not recommended for Federation/USDF Qualifying Classes, and if qualifying classes may be held on grass, this fact must be stated in the Prize List.





The Arena – DR126.7



d. Indoor Arenas:

- In case of inclement weather or during the winter the use of an indoor arena may be desirable.
- Under such circumstances, it is best if the indoor hall dimensions allow the following minimum conditions to be met:
 - There should be 2m from the long sides of the Dressage arena fence to the indoor hall sideboards and 10m from the short sides of the Dressage arena fence to the indoor hall sideboards.
 - With necessary modifications to meet local conditions, the other requirements for an outdoor arena apply.
 - **Modification of arena size:**
 - Where local conditions necessitate, use of a modified arena is acceptable as long as the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list.
 - The arena should be shortened no more than five meters.
 - However, Qualifying, Championship, USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials and observation trials and Freestyle classes must be held in an unmodified standard size arena.



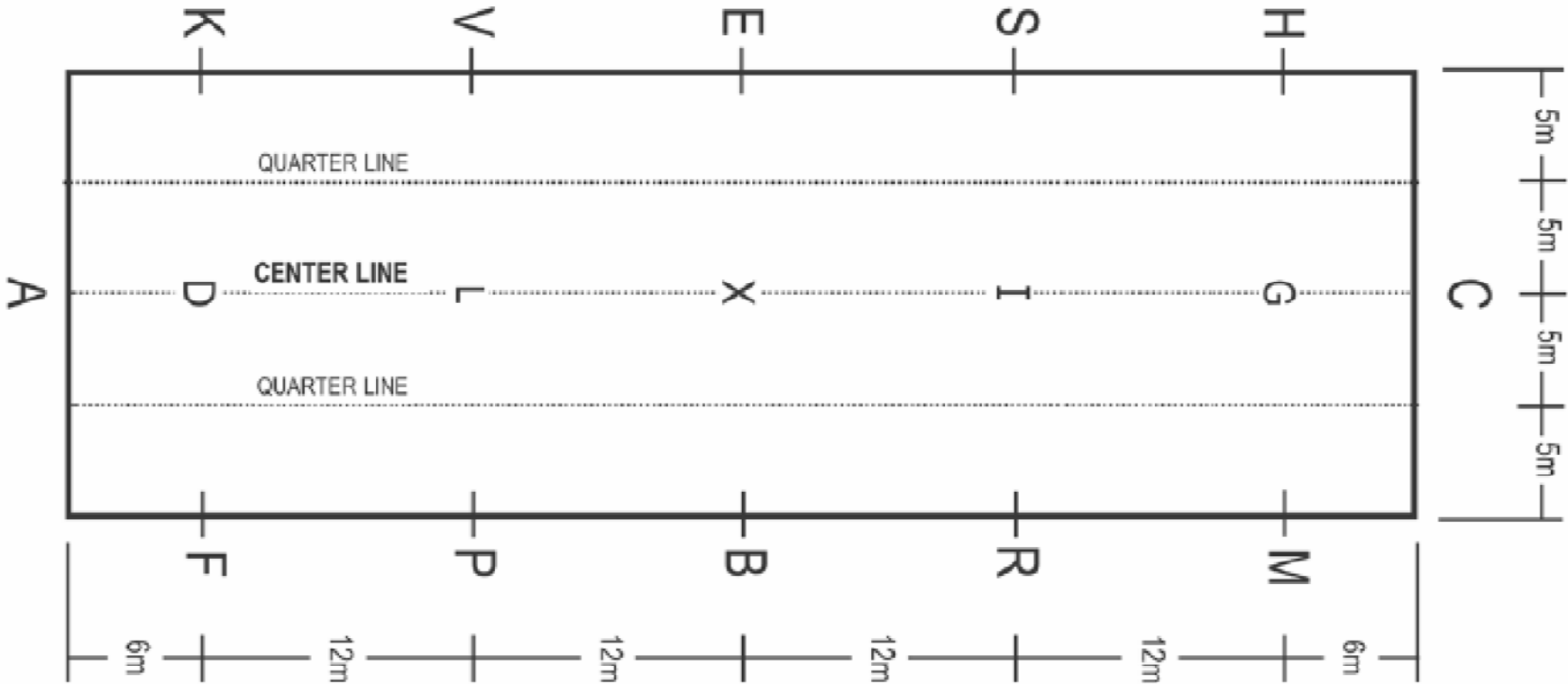


20m x 60m Arena (Standard or Large Arena)



<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>

Standard Arena

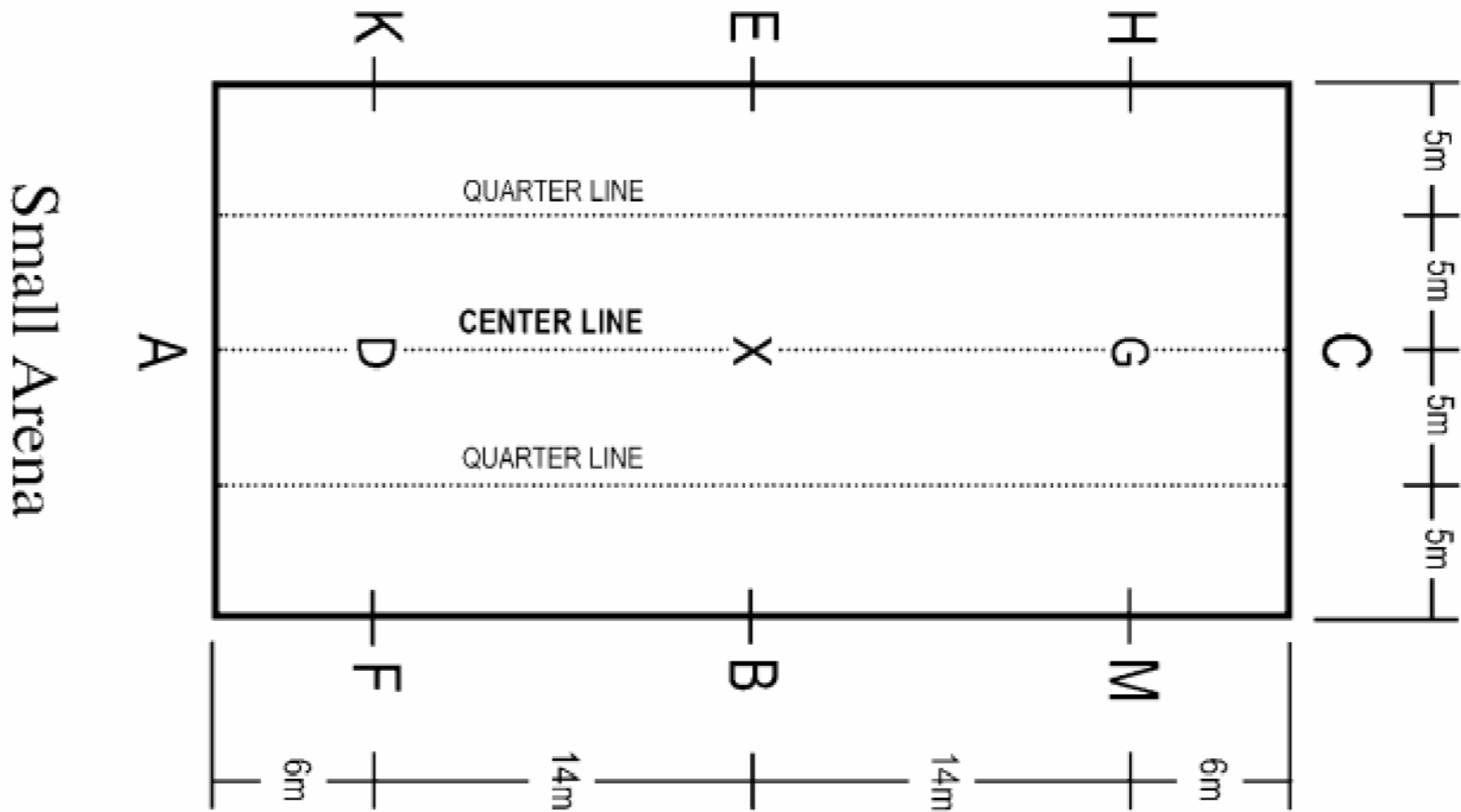




20m x 40m Arena (Small Arena)

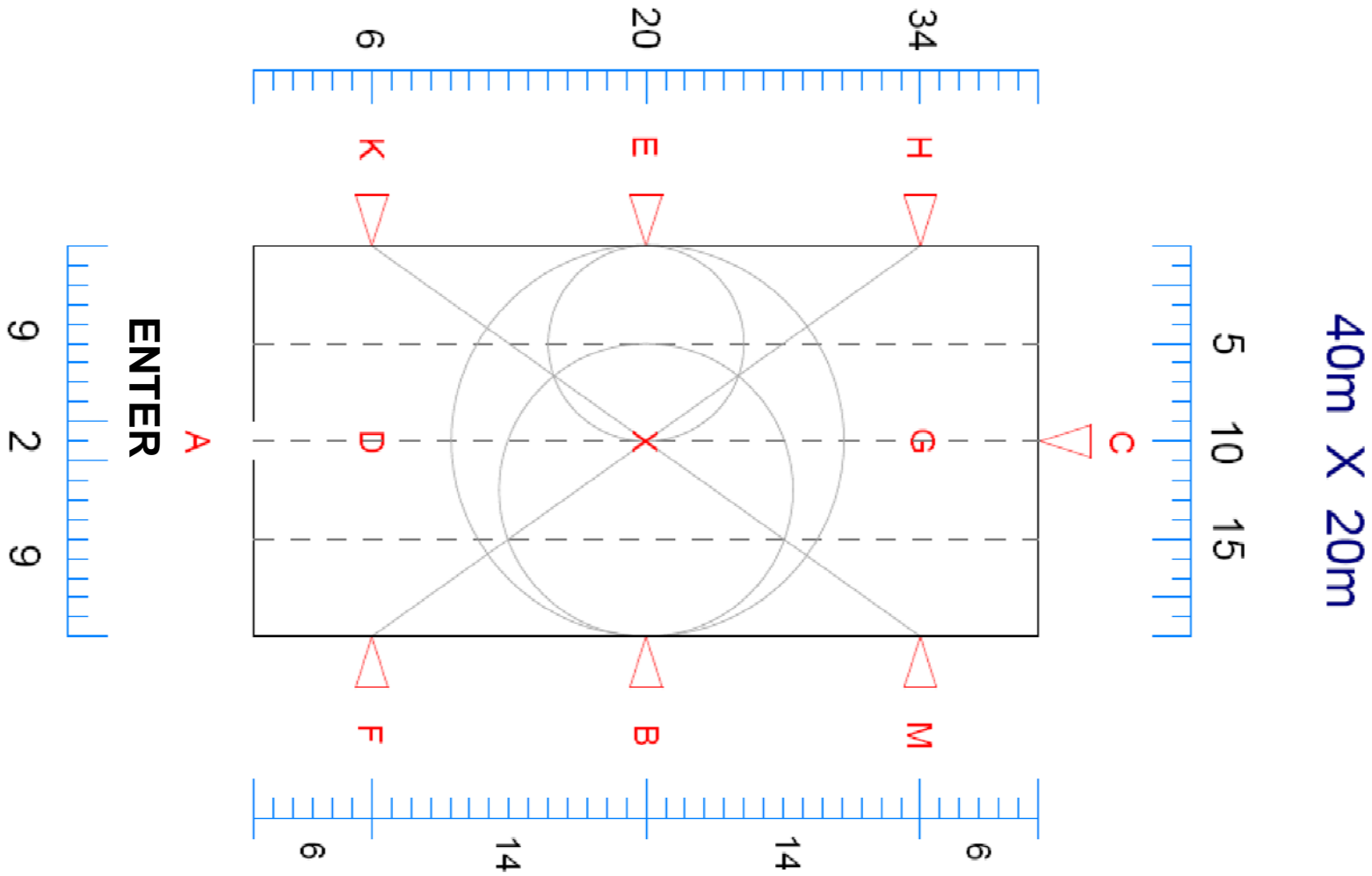


<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>





20m x 40m Arena (Small Arena)



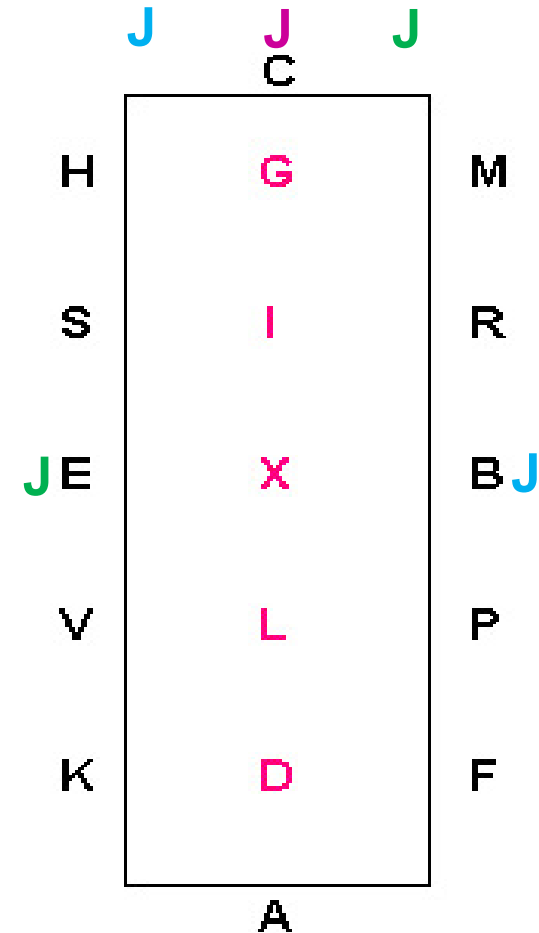


Locations of the Jury (Judges)

DR126.8



- If there is only one judge, s/he is preferably placed a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters from the end of the arena and must be opposite the letter **C**.
- When two judges are used, one is placed at **C** and the other at **B** or **E**, preferably a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters opposite the letter.
- When three judges are used, one is placed at **C**, the second at **B** or **E**, and the third should be placed at the end of the arena on a line with the judge at **C** and 2.5 meters in from the edge of the long side of the arena at **H** or **M**. (If the second judge is at **B**, the third should be at **H** and vice versa). If this is not possible, judges should be placed at the end of the arena, one at **C**, one 2.5 meters in from the long side of the arena at **M**, and the other 2.5 meters from the long side of the arena at **H**.
- At indoor competitions, Judges should preferably be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena.



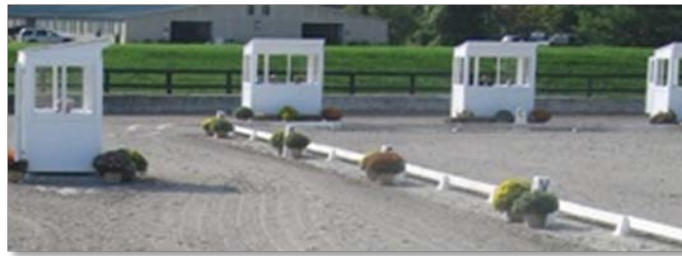


Judge Enclosures

DR126.8



- A separate enclosure (booth, tent, trailer) should be provided for each judge and it must be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches), for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher, above the ground to give the judge(s) a good view of the ring.
- The booth/hut must be large enough to accommodate three people, except that the booth at C must accommodate four people for Young Horse Championship classes.
- Judges' booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.
- The jury for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses, must be seated together at "C" and may comprise a maximum of three judges.





Arena Set-Up Triangulation Method



“Thank you” to the United States Pony Clubs for providing the text from which this description was derived.

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>

Setting Up a Dressage Arena:

- Letters and arena fencing can be constructed or can be ordered from companies that sell equipment for dressage rings.
- Companies that sell equipment for dressage rings advertise in USDF Connection and in other dressage and eventing publications.
- Refer to USEF’s rule book, DR 126.6 for a description of legal fencing. The rule book is available at www.USEF.org.
- There are some arena layout tools available commercially that may simplify the process described next.

Suggested Methods for Laying Out Arenas

- First, establish the approximate locations of the rings. Stride out approximate distances or use a measuring wheel. Check the footing, determine the location of the judge relative to sun and confirm whether there will be adequate space for the judge’s booth and for a comfortable circle at entry. Relocate as required. It is highly desirable to NOT have the sun in the judge’s eyes.



Arena Set-Up Triangulation Method



"Thank you" to the United States Pony Clubs for providing the text from which this description was derived.

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>

Using Measuring Tapes

- Metric/English fiberglass measuring tapes in reel-type plastic cases with flush-folding handles are available from contractors' supply stores, lumber yard supply stores, or surveyors' supply stores. These measuring tapes are available in 60-meter (200-foot) and 100-meter (300-foot) lengths.
- In addition, for measuring corners, 100-foot builder's tapes are available at a nominal cost from hardware stores.

Materials

- At least one 60-meter (200-foot) surveyor's tape, preferably marked in meters on one side of the tape. Two 60-meter tapes are ideal.
- Also, two 100-foot builder's tapes are used to set corners and short walls.
- Six stakes or long nails to establish corners and measuring points.



Arena Set-Up

Triangulation Method



<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>

Directions

- A 90° corner is established by using the Pythagorean theorem, which states that the sum of the squares of the sides of a right triangle equals the square of the hypotenuse. Tapes are used to establish a right triangle with sides of 40 feet and 30 feet and a hypotenuse of 50 feet.
- Drive in one stake or nail to establish the location for the first corner stake. Using the 100-foot builder's tape, measure 66 feet along the potential short wall. Then take a 60-meter tape and for a small arena measure 40 meters down the long wall (or for a standard ring measure 60 meters) and place a stake with the tape secured to be straight and taut. This will be the second corner.
- Then, use the second 100-foot builder's tape. Secure it at the 40-foot point on the long wall, unreel 50 feet and then adjust the positions between the 40-foot location on the long wall and a 30-foot location on the short wall so they are exactly 50 feet apart. (See fig.1.) The easiest way to do this is to pivot the short wall while leaving the long wall taut. Mark the final location of end of the short wall with a stake. This is the third corner.
- Use the tapes to measure out the other long wall and short wall. The fourth corner is located at their junction. By making these last two walls the correct lengths, all corners will be square. Optionally, the diagonal of the ring may be measured as a check, as shown in the following diagram.
- Set the arena fencing.
- Refer to the following diagrams to determine placement of letters.
- Place letters approximately ½ meter away from the edge of the arena.
- On the arena enclosure place a special marker on the fence itself, level with, and in addition to, the letter concerned.

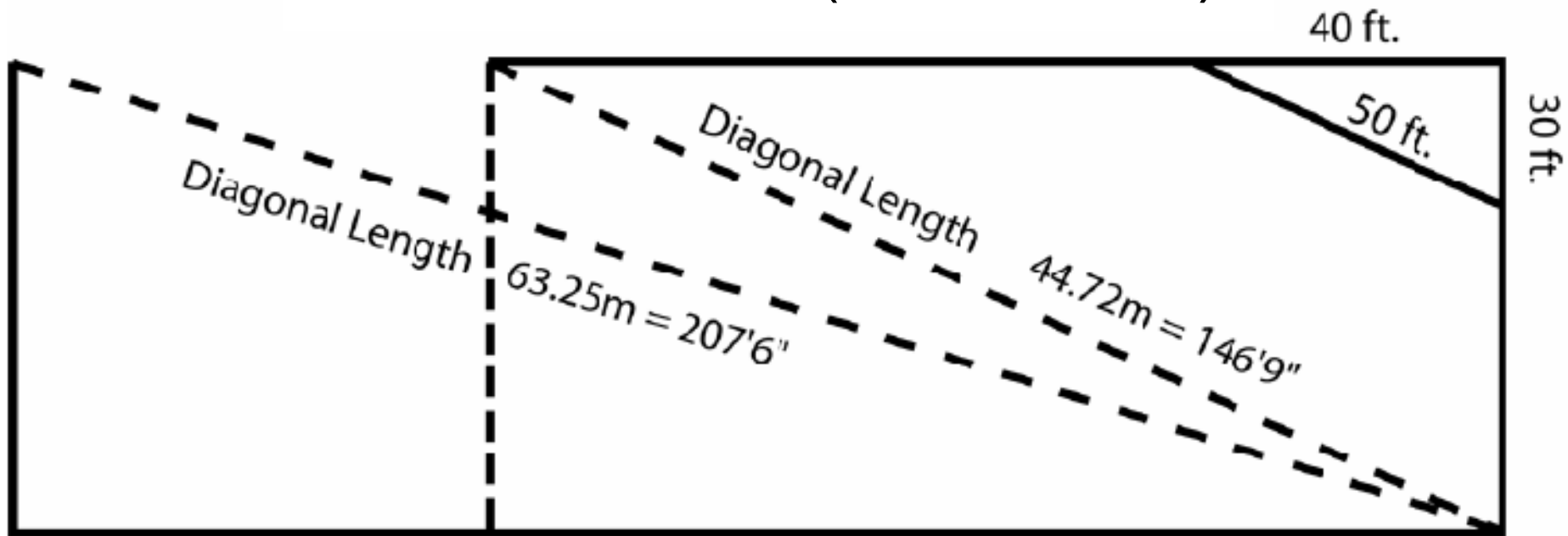


Arena Set-Up Triangulation Method



<http://www.usdf.org/docs/competitions/handbook/AppendixF-Arena.pdf>

SMALL ARENA (20M x 40M)



STANDARD ARENA (20M x 60M)



Arena Set-Up

Commercial Cones and Rails



MAINTAINING YOUR NEW DRESSAGE ARENA

Your new arena is made from sturdy PCV. This material is UV treated for sun, and light impact. This is basically maintenance free aside from a thorough cleaning from time to time. To clean your arena use water and a mild detergent. Use a sponge or soft cloth as abrasives may scratch the finish. To get out real stubborn stains you can use mineral spirits followed by a water rinse. Go lightly when using mineral spirits it can damage the finish.

When arena is set up, rails should be turned over every 2-3 months to prevent sagging. When moving your arena, be sure to lay flat and not let rails bend while in transit. Arena is safe to leave out in all weather conditions, however in extreme cold, rails are more susceptible to damage with any impact.

Storage: Rail must lie flat on a smooth flat surface, be sure to wash sand off rails to prevent scratching. Cones should be clean and free of sand and debris before stacking.

Included in your shipment:

- 40 Rails
- 36 Line Cones
- 4 Corner Cones
- 5 sections on 60 meter side
- 2 sections on 20 meter side

What you need:

- Hammer
- 60 Meter Tape Measure
- 60 Meters of Twine or String
- 2 2-ft. Stakes or Rebar



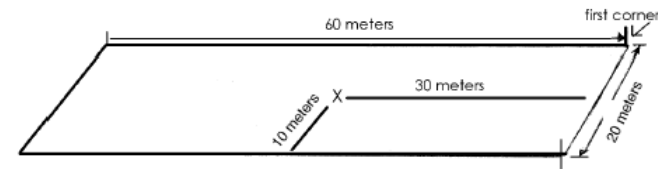
PREPARATION

1. *Drag or blade the arena area* — as level and smooth as possible.
2. *Locate and count all parts.* Separate line cones, rails.
3. *Deposit Rails and Cones* — place the pieces around the outside perimeter where the arena will stand. This is to get the pieces close to where they will be installed.

LAYOUT YOUR ARENA

4. *Find the Center Point* — Assuming you want your arena centered atop the footing you will need to find the center point of your footing. Measure from edge to edge of the long side. Mark the center point. Measure from edge to edge of the short side and mark the center point. Bring the center points together to find the center of your arena.

5. *Locate Short Side Line* — From the center point measure 30 meters toward the short side, this is where your short side will line up.



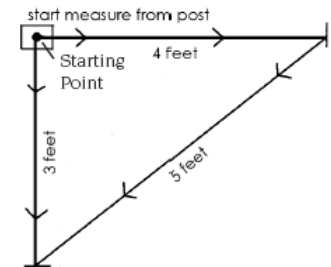
6. *Locate Long Side Line* — From the center point measure 10 meters toward the long side, this is where your long side will line up.

7. *Locate First Corner* — At the point where the two side lines intersect is the corner of your arena. Set cones and rails to create your first corner

8. *Square First Corner* — Use the 3-4-5 triangle method to set up 90 degree corners. (see diagram). Measure from where the two rails meet in the corner, (mark this the starting point). From the starting point measure one rail to 3 feet, use the inside top of rail, and mark the point. Again using the inside edge top of the rail, from the starting point measure the other rail to 4 feet and mark the point. (Remember, the rail is four meters long) To achieve a correct 90 degree angle the distance between the two marked points must be 5 feet. Move the angle of the rails on the short side in or out until the distance between the marked points is 5 feet. Now the corner is square.

9. *Set-up First Long Side* — From the squared first corner cone, lay a tape or long string in a straight line to help you. Keep in mind the center point of the arena to make the line square with the base.

10. *Build Out First Long Side* — Using the string as a guide place the rails and cones along the long side. Make sure the rails butt up against each other. Rails are pre-cut and measured as long as they are tight your length will be correct. 60 Meter Side has 15 sections, 9 Straight Cones and 2 Corner Cones.



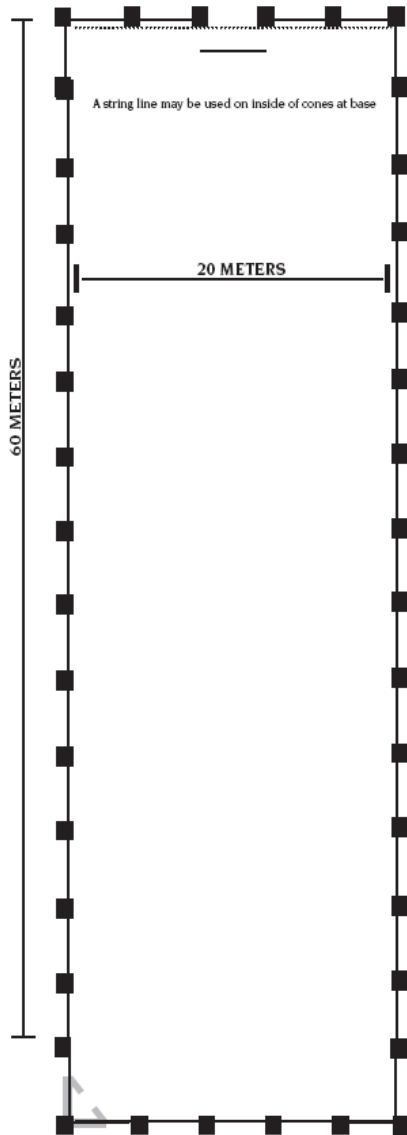


Arena Set-Up

Commercial Cones and Rails



11. *Square Second Corner* – Use same method as before to square the second corner.
12. *Build Out Short Side* – Assemble cones and rails along the short side.
13. *Build Out Original Short Side* – Go back to original corner and build the short side there before building second long side. This corner should already be squared. Assemble cones and rails along this short side.
14. *Square Third Corner* – Use the same method as described above to square the corner.
15. *Build Out Second Long Side*
Use your string or tape to line up both built out short sides. This will help you to lay cones and rails in the direction you need. If the last long side is off, it is easy to alter one of the short sides to fit. Assemble cones and rails to finish the second long side.
16. *Place sand around lip of cone*
Finish your set-up by placing your footing around the lip of the cone. (You may also bury the cone slightly). This will ensure wind stability and secure each cone.



Arena Toolkit



An optional item that may be purchased commercially. For quick easy set up every time. The Arena Tool enables you to set up a 40 or 60 meter arena. Provides a perfect template to accurately set the arena and place the letters. Arena tool includes stakes and storage bag, along with simple instructions.