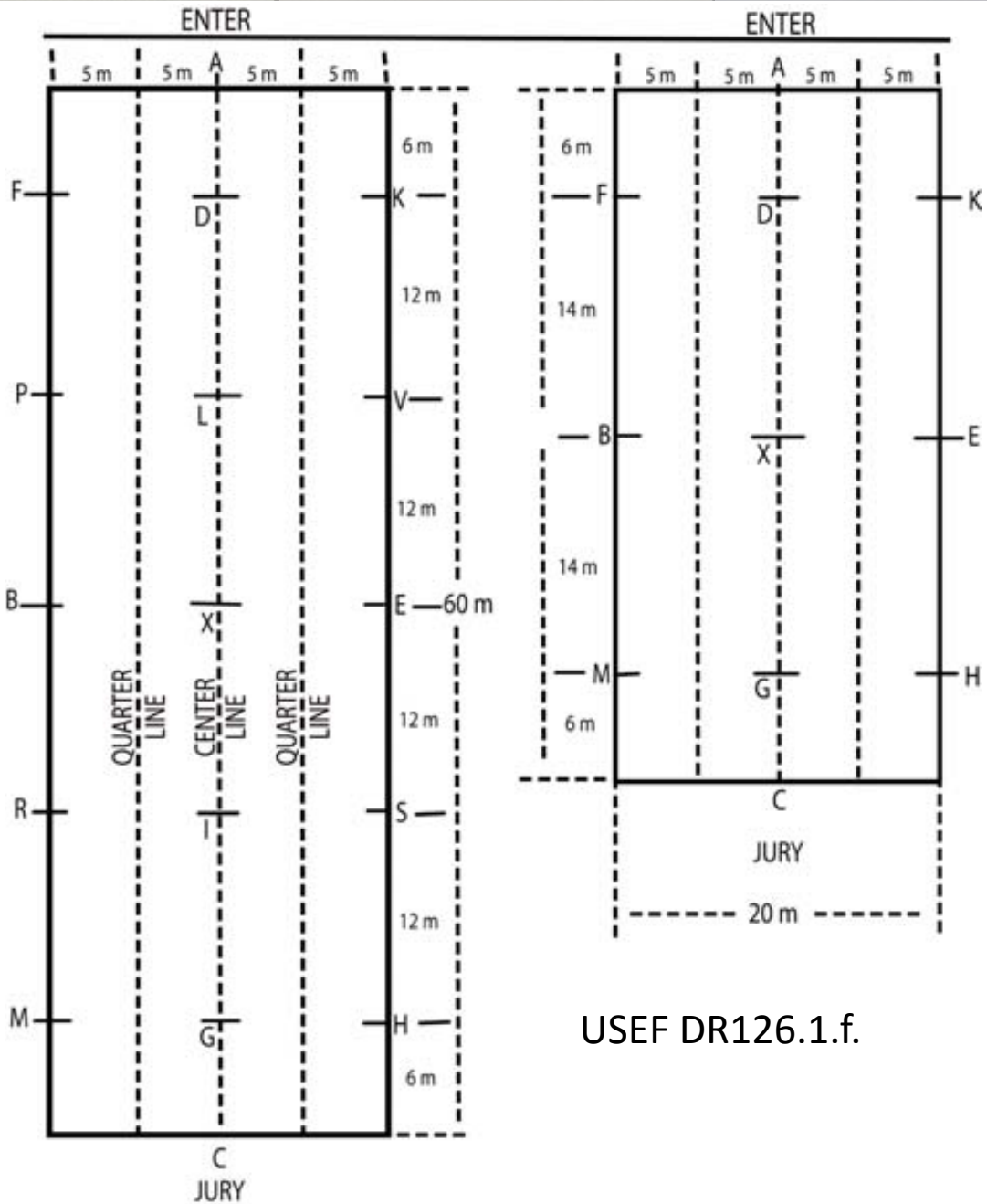
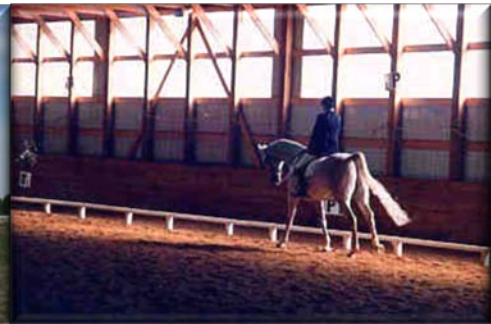




# ARENA SETUP



Based on USEF Rules Effective 1 Dec 2009



USEF DR126.1.f.

# ARENA SETUP

## USEF Rules



❖ **USEF DR126.1.** *The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below. EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09*

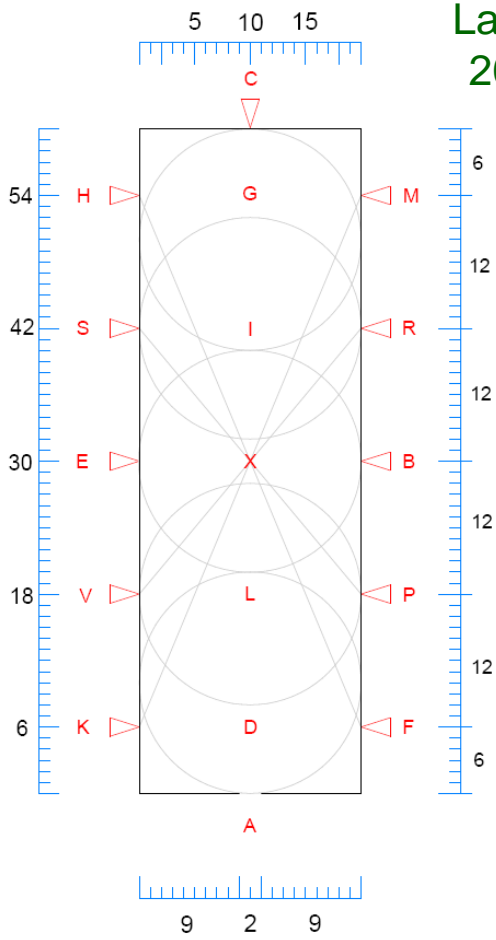
➤ **f. Arena Specifications. EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09**

- 1) 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 not exceed 0.50 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall not exceed 0.20 meters.
- 2) The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure.
- 3) The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at "A". BOD 1/18/09 Effective 12/1/09
- 4) The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Except for the letter "A", the letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters 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. The letter A should be placed at least five meters away from the arena.
- 7) No publicity is permitted anywhere on the arena fence. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena.
- 8) It is recommended that arenas be separated from the public (people, horses and other activities) by a distance of not less than 15 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 3 meters. For indoor competitions, the recommended minimum distance from the public is 3 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 1.5 meters. For Level 1 and Level 2 competitions, where tall solid walls preclude public access or visibility, arenas are exempt from this requirement. Indoor and outdoor arenas must be separated by a minimum of 5 meters at Level 3-5 competitions and 2 meters at Level 1-2 competitions.
- 9) Where severe inclement weather threatens to disrupt participation in the competition due to concerns for footing or safety, Level 3-5 competitions are permitted to follow the same arena specifications as in #8, above.
- 10) Use of a modified arena is permitted only for Level 1-2 competitions and only when the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. The arena must not be shortened more than five meters. However, for all competition levels, 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.
- 11) Entry and exit must be at "A" for Level 4-5 competitions. For Level 1-3 competitions: If competitors enter and exit at any location other than "A", the arena fence must be completely closed for the duration of the ride. BOD 1/18/09 Effective 12/1/09
- 12) If marked, the center line, throughout its length should be as clearly marked as possible, without being of a nature to frighten the horses.
- 13) For all classes or tests where the arena size is optional or may be modified, the size must be stated in the prize list.
- 14) The following tests and classes must be held in a Standard Arena:
  - a) Federation First Level Dressage tests and above, FEI Dressage tests; and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena.
  - b) Federation/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes at all levels
- 15) At the discretion of competition management, all tests for Para Equestrians may be ridden in a Standard arena. (Exception: Grade I - III freestyle tests must be held in a small arena. Grade IV freestyle tests must be held in a standard arena.) The arena sizes to be used must be indicated in the prize list. For the USEF National Para-Equestrian Championships and Para-Equestrian Selection Trials, all tests for Grades I, II, and III must be ridden in a small arena and Grade IV must be ridden in a standard size arena.

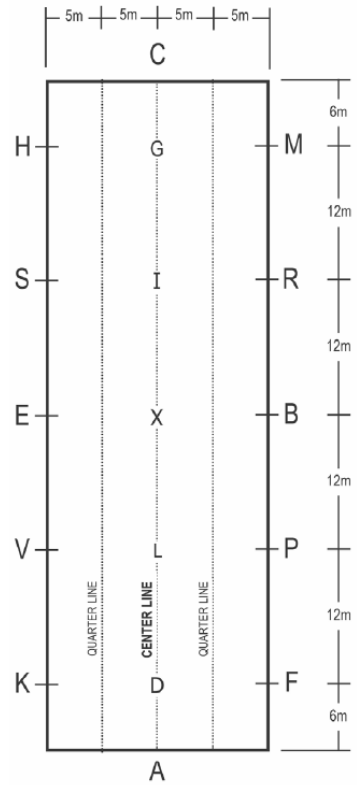


# ARENA SETUP

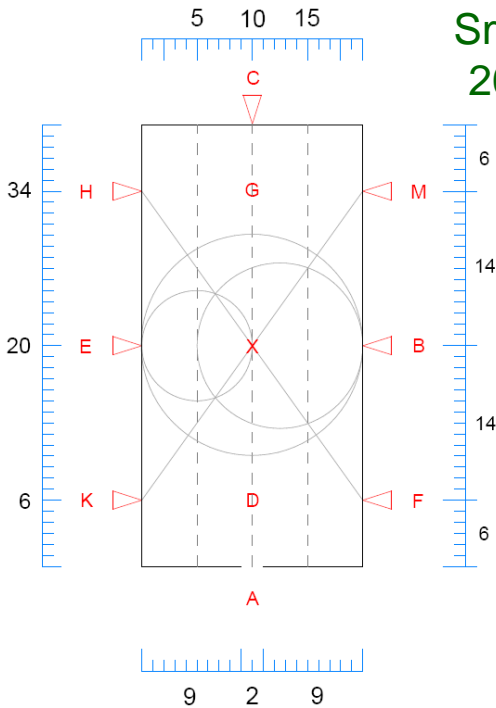
## Large (Standard) and Small Arenas



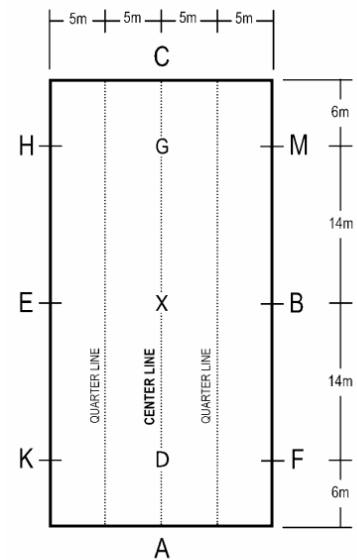
Large Arena  
20m x 60m



Standard Arena



Small Arena  
20m x 40m



Small Arena



# ARENA SETUP



## Judge Locations, Footing Maintenance

- ❖ **USEF DR126.1.** *The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below. EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09*
  - **g. Location of Judges.** *EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09*
    - 1) *If there is only one judge 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 must 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.*
    - 2) *At indoor competitions, judges must be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena, unless modifications are permitted by application to the Federation Dressage Committee.*
    - 3) *Except in Young Horse tests, a separate enclosure (booth, tent, trailer) or platform for indoor classes should must be provided for each judge.*
    - 4) *Each judges booth or platform 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.*
    - 5) *The booth/hut/platform must be large enough to accommodate three people except that the booth at C must accommodate four people for Young Horse Championship classes.*
    - 6) *Judges' booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.*
    - 7) *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.*
    - 8) *Judge booths or platforms must be separated from other arenas by a minimum distance of 3 meters.*
  - **h. Footing Maintenance.** *EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09*
    - 1) *Competition management must make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and schooling areas.*
    - 2) *Provisions should be made (by having on hand proper equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain throughout the competition the footing in all riding areas by dragging, watering and, if necessary, raking.*





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

## ❖ 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](http://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.

## ❖ 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.
- Alternately, a purchased kit used to set up an arena.





# ARENA SETUP

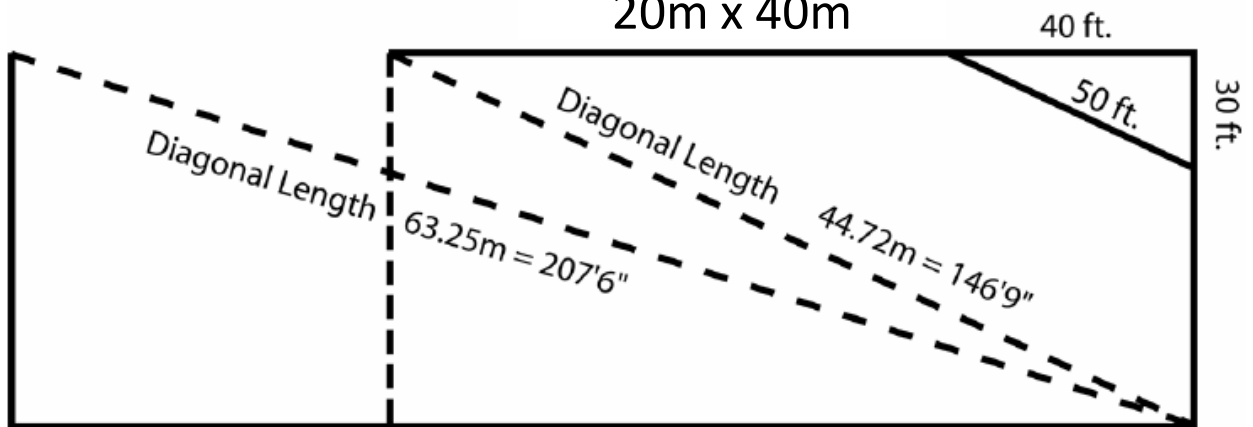


## ❖ Directions

- 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.

### SMALL ARENA

20m x 40m



### STANDARD ARENA

(20m x 60m)