

Equestrian Australia Limited



NATIONAL DRESSAGE RULES

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MARKED UP
VERSION

The Equestrian Australia National Dressage Rules may
also be found on the Equestrian Australia website:

www.equestrian.org.au

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SECTION 5: YOUNG HORSE and YOUNG PONY

National Young Horse (YH) competitions are a series conducted throughout Australia composed of qualifying competitions and an Australian final. Applications from the SDA to conduct the annual Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships must be submitted to the ADC the year prior to the final and before the mid-year ADC meeting. These rules also apply to Young Pony competitions.

5.1 General conditions

In relation to Young Horse and Young Pony competitions the following rules apply:

- a) Para-Equestrian riders are welcome to ride young horses/ponies in Young Horse tests but the use of compensating aids is not permitted
- b) birth dates for all horses and ponies will be as at 1 August (see rule 1.15.3.4 for calculation of age)
- c) in principle, the YH competitions will consist of one mandatory round at qualifiers and two mandatory rounds at the State Championships and Australian Young Horse Championships
- d) in all YH FEI tests the trot is to be executed sitting unless specified rising
- e) a third round where a guest rider rides the horses is optional
- f) judging scoresheets to be used for 4, 5, 6 and 7 year-old YH competitions are available on the EA website
- g) at all 4,5, and 6yo competitions, the judges must sit together, in 7 year old competition the technical judge/s sit at C and the judges assessing the quality sit together at E or B
- h) horses will be judged on walk, trot, canter, rideability and overall impression as a future dressage horse, including standard of training on the basis of the Training Scale
- i) competitions will be Official but will not attract grading points
- j) horses must be registered with the EA and hold a current Dressage Performance Card/Competitor Licence
- k) horses must exceed 149 cm with shoes
- l) ponies must not exceed 149 cm with shoes or 148 cm without shoes
- m) horses may qualify for the Australian Young Horse Championships from 1 August of the year they turn 4, 5, 6 or 7 until the closing date of entries to the Australian Young Horse Championships
- n) riders and horse owners must be current Competitive members of the EA
- o) riders must turn 10 years of age or over in the calendar year of competition
- p) all Young Horse results must be forwarded to EA for recording on the EA data base
- q) the competitor's state of origin must appear in the results
- r) results for all competitions and rounds showing the mark for trot, walk, canter, submission and perspective for each horse must be available online and in hard copy
- s) if a horse leaves the arena with all four feet during a 4-year-old state qualifying competition this will not entail elimination but will incur a 2 point penalty to be deducted before the score is divided by 5. This rule does not apply to the Australian YH Championships
- t) Errors of Course to be subtracted once score has been converted to a percentage score:
 - 1st error – 0.5 percentage point
 - 2nd error – 1.0 percentage point
 - 3rd error – Elimination
- u) 0.5% to be deducted per other error
- v) where two rounds are held the mark from the first round will *not* carry forward to the second round.

5.1.1 Judge requirements

In general:

- a) 4, 5 and 6yo Young Horse competitions must *only* be judged by at least 2 NOAS or FEI-accredited Young Horse judges
- b) 7yo Young Horse competitions require one technical judge of at least B level at C to judge the technical execution of the test. Plus two other judges who must be at least EA YH qualified sitting together at E or B to judge the quality and standard of training as per the usual Young Horse assessment.
- c) in all FEI Young Horse tests (including qualifying events) the judges will sit together at C
- d) judges and YH specialists must adhere to the requirement of Rule 1.7 *Conflict of interest* and declare any conflict of interest.

State Championships

For State Championships, all competitive rounds must be judged by either FEI Young Horse judges or NOAS-accredited Young Horse judges. There may be a third judge who is a recognised foreign Young Horse specialist. In the 7yo competition there must be a third judge to assess the technical components who must be at least EA B level.

Australian Championships

The appointment of all judges for the Australian Championships must be approved by the ADC. In relation to judging at these events:

- a) for 4,5 and 6yo all competitions and rounds (excluding Consolation rounds) the Ground Jury must consist of 3 judges with 2 being accredited FEI Young Horse judges (and one also being a foreign judge). The third judge can either be an FEI Young Horse judge, an NOAS Young Horse judge or a foreign Young Horse specialist
- b) for 7yo Young Horse classes, the Ground Jury must consist of three judges, two must be FEI Young Horse judges plus one other technical judge who must be at least EA A level
- c) Consolation rounds for horses are to be judged by 2 NOAS or FEI Young Horse judges, or a combination of both.

Ponies

In regards to Pony competitions:

- a) in all 4-,5- and 6-year-old classes and all rounds excluding Consolation rounds, the Ground Jury must consist of 3 judges, including a minimum of 1 FEI-accredited Young Horse judge (Australian or foreign) and 2 NOAS Young Horse judges
- b) Consolation rounds for ponies are to be judged by 2 NOAS or FEI Young Horse judges, or a combination of both.

5.1.2 Dress and saddlery

Approved safety helmets are to be worn in all 4-,5- and 6-year-old competitions. This includes qualifying events and State/Australian National Championships. Additionally, failure to comply with any of the below will entail elimination:

- a) a whip is permitted to be carried in all age groups at qualifying events
- b) for Young Horses a total maximum length of 120 cm is permitted
- c) for Ponies, a maximum length of 100 cm is permitted
- d) a whip is permitted to be carried in the 4-year-old age group (only) at the State and Australian

Championships

- e) a whip is not permitted to be carried in the 5, 6 and 7 year-old competitions at the State and Australian Championships. In the practice area, the use of one whip is permitted. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will entail a penalty of 0.1 points from the total score
- f) In the practice area, the use of one whip is permitted. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will entail a penalty of 2 points from the total score prior to conversion to a percentage.
- g) 4,5 and 6yo horses are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle as defined in Section 2
- h) the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece of the snaffle bit must be at least:
 - 14 mm for horses – refer to rule 2.11.3
 - 10 mm for ponies – refer to rule 2.11.3
- i) the Mexican/Crossed noseband is not permitted
- k) all other dress and recognised requirements are as stated in Section 2.

5.1.3 Non-State Championship events

In regards to holding non-State Championship events:

- a) organisers are permitted to utilise the format of the State Championships
- b) such events can consist of just one or two rounds
- c) where the State Championship formula is used both rounds may be used as qualifiers providing completely different judges are used for each round
- d) events can be held over more than one day.

5.2 Conduct of qualifying events

In the case of holding qualifying events:

- a) callers are permitted for 4,5 and 6 year old competitions
- b) the age of horses is taken from the 1st August (see rule 1.15.3.4)
- c) they are to be ridden one horse at a time in the arena
- d) decimal points may be used
- e) for 4,5 and 6yo FEI Young Horse tests (including at qualifying events) the judges will sit together at C. For 7yo FEI Young Horse the technical judge will sit at C and the two judges assessing the quality will sit together at B or E.
- f) qualifying events must consist of one round and use the tests outlined in the table below:

Age	Mandatory round
4YO	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
5YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
5YO Pony	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds
6YO Pony	EA test for 6-year-olds Ponies
7YO	EA Advanced 5.2

5.3 State Young Horse Championships

For 4, 5, 6 and 7 year old horses and 4,5 and 6 year old ponies:

- a) the age of horses/ponies is taken from the 1st August
- b) Ponies must not exceed 149 cms with shoes or 148 cm without shoes. A current approved height certificate must be supplied at time of entry
- c) only first round test as outlined in rule 5.3.1 below may be commanded
- d) states may conduct their own championships each year; however horses may qualify for the Australian Championships without attending a State Championship competitions will be offered for 4, 5 and 6-year-old horses/ponies and 7 year old horses
- e) the competitors' state of origin must be included in the start list, draw, program and results
- f) both rounds may be used as qualifying scores to compete at the Australian Young Horse Championships providing completely different judges are used for each round
- g) for judges please refer to rule 5.1.1.

5.3.1 Tests to be ridden at State Young Dressage Horse Championships with two rounds

AGE	First round	Second round
4YO	EA YH commanded test for 4-year-olds	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 4-year-olds	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
5YO	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
5YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO Horses	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds
6YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 6-year olds	EA test for 6-year-olds
7YO	EA Advanced 5.2	FEI 7YO Preliminary Test

5.3.2 First qualifying round

The first qualifying round is:

- a) to be ridden one or two horses at a time in the arena under the direction of a caller
- b) top 10 placings (including equals) will go forward into the second round provided they have attained a score of no less than 6.5 (65%) in the first round
- c) decimal points may be used in judging
- d) the mark from the first round will *not* carry forward to the second round.

5.3.3 Second qualifying round

In the second qualifying round:

- a) the top 10 combinations from the first round are eligible for the second round. If there is equality of placings for 10th place, equal horses must be included in the second round.
- b) the mark from the second round will determine the final placings.

5.3.4 Commentary

Ideally there should be commentary by the judging panel made available to the public on the second round or, if possible, both rounds.

5.4 Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships

In Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships for 4, 5, 6 and 7 year-old horses and 4,5 and 6 year old ponies:

- a) only the first round tests may be commanded
- b) ponies must not exceed 149 cms with shoes or 148 cm without shoes and a current approved height certificate must be supplied at time of entry
- c) commentary for the public is to be provided after each horse for the first, second and third rounds.

5.4.1 Administration

In relation to administration:

- a) the draft schedule must be submitted to the ADC for approval at least 6 months prior to the event
- b) the ADC must appoint the TD and approve the judges
- c) the TD must provide a report to the ADC within 21 days of the event
- d) the OC must provide a report to the ADC within 21 days of the event
- e) the competitors' state of origin must be included in the start list, draw and programme.

5.4.2 Judge requirements

Please refer to rule 5.1.1.

5.4.3 Eligibility for Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships

In relation to eligibility requirements:

- a) horses must exceed 149 cm with shoes or 148 cm without shoes
- b) horses must qualify by achieving at least 6.5 (65%) at a Young Horse qualifying competition conducted under these rules at the age group they are entering
- c) competitors are to submit on the entry from 2 performances in the above-mentioned competitions for eligibility as detailed above. If performances are at events with 2 rounds, the entry form must state in which round the score was achieved
- d) horses may qualify with one performance, however preference will be given to horses with 2 performances
- e) to verify the performance, a copy of the test paper or result sheet must be submitted with the entry
- f) competitors will be ranked from the highest average of the two performances to the lowest
- g) the first round will be limited to 36 horses from each age group
- h) a ballot will take place of the highest ranked horses to determine order of starting
- i) a reserve list in ranking order will be established
- j) in special circumstances, the OC can request permission from the ADC to increase the number of entries to the final
- k) imported horses that only have international qualifications may be accepted, provided proof of appropriate qualification in one or more overseas YH competitions accompanies the entry.

5.4.4 Tests to be Ridden at Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships

The tests to be ridden at Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships are outlined in the table below:

AGE	First round	Second round
4YO	EA 4-year-old Australian Championships test (commanded)	Current FEI Dressage test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	EA 4-year-old Australian Championships test (commanded)	Current FEI Dressage test for 4-year-olds
5YO	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	Current FEI Dressage test for 5-year-olds – Final
5YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	Current FEI Dressage test for 5-year-olds - Final

6YO Horses	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds	Current FEI Dressage test for 6-year-olds – Final
6YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds	EA test for 6-year-olds
7YO	FEI 7YO Preliminary Test	FEI 7YO Dressage Test for 7 year olds - Final

5.4.5 First round for 4-year-old horses and ponies

- the test will be the EA 4-year-old test, and will be commanded
- horses will enter the arena either 2 or 3 at a time under the direction of a caller
- each group will be allocated approximately 15 minutes
- the mark from the first round will *not* carry forward to the second round
- all judges will sit together at E or B
- commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.

5.4.6 Second round 4-year-old horses and ponies

- top 10 placings (including equals) from the first round will go forward into the second round provided they have attained a score of no less than 6.5 (65%) in the first round
- judges will sit together at C
- to be ridden one horse at a time
- commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.

5.4.7 First round 5- and 6-year-old horses and ponies

- to be ridden 2 horses or ponies at a time in the arena and will be commanded
- all judges will sit together at E or B
- each horse or pony will be awarded a mark for each of the requirements on the judging sheet and a final score calculated
- the mark from the first round will *not* carry forward to the second round
- commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.

5.4.8 Second round 5- and 6-year-old horses and ponies

- top 10 placings (including equals) from the first round will go forward into the second round provided they have attained a score of no less than 6.5 (65%) in the first round
- judges will sit together at C
- to be ridden one horse at a time
- commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.
- the 5- and 6-year-old Young Horses who win the second round are qualified to be selected to represent Australia at the annual World Championships for Young Horses as long as they meet the criteria outlined in rule 5.6 below.

5.4.9 First round 7yo horses

- the technical judge will sit at C. The judges assessing the quality will sit together at E or B

- b) each horse will be awarded a mark for each of the requirements on the judging sheet and a final score calculated
- c) the mark from the first round will *not* carry forward to the second round
- d) commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.

5.4.10 Second round 7yo

- a) top 10 placings (including equals) from the first round will go forward into the second round provided they have attained a score of no less than 6.5 (65%) in the first round
- b) judges will sit at C (technical) and two judges together at E or B (to assess the quality)
- c) to be ridden one horse at a time
- d) commentary to be provided – refer to rule 5.4.
- e) the 7yo Young Horse who wins the second round is qualified to be selected to represent Australia at the annual FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses as long as they meet the criteria outlined in rule 5.6 below.

5.4.11 Third guest rider round for 5, 6 and 7 Year-old horses

The top 3 horses in each age group are to be ridden by a guest rider whose independent score out of 10 will be added to the second round score. *This third round for 7 year olds is at the discretion of the OC.*

5.4.12 Champion of Champions prize

There may be a separate Champion of Champions prize for **4, 5, 6 and 7 year-old horses and 4-, 5- and 6-year-old ponies** horses and ponies. It is up to the OC to determine how the Champion of Champions is conducted and assessed.

5.5 Consolation finals

Any 4, **5, 6 and 7** year-old horses and 4-, 5- and 6-year-old ponies that are not eligible to compete in the second round will be eligible to compete in the Consolation final providing they have scored at least 6 (60%) in the first round, judged by 2 accredited Young Horse judges sitting at C. The tests to be ridden will be as follows:

Age	Consolation final
4YO Horse	Current FEI Dressage test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	Current FEI Dressage test for 4-year-olds
5YO Horse	Current FEI Dressage test for 5-year-olds – Final
5YO Pony	Current FEI Dressage test for 5-year-olds – Final
6YO Horse	Current FEI Dressage test for 6-year-olds – Final
6YO Pony	EA test for 6-year-olds
7YO Horse	<i>FEI 7yo Dressage Test for 7year olds - Final</i>

5.6 Selection of Young Horses to represent Australia overseas

The EA National Dressage Selectors will select the Australian representatives for the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses based on merit and with reference to any EA Selection Policy that may be in place, the performance requirements detailed below and the rules of the FEI/World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses. In particular, horses must be registered with a stud book recognised by the WBFSH.

For Young Horses to be considered for endorsement to the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses they must have a minimum of 2 performances of at least 7.5 with at least 7 for each pace. Additionally:

- a) for Australian-based horses, at least one of these scores must be achieved in the second round of the Australian Young Horse Championships
- b) for Young Horses *not* based in Australia, at least one performance must be from an official Young Horse qualifier or recognised final.

Competition results, including the judging sheets, must be forwarded to the EA National Office as proof of performances.

5.7 Guide for riders and judges

Judges will award a mark out of 10 (decimal points are permitted) for walk, trot, canter, submission and perspective as a dressage horse. Judges must consider the following questions when making their assessments:

- is the horse clearly demonstrating correct education according to the training scale?
- does the horse demonstrate a desirable picture of a dressage horse?

The fundamental criteria of paces, submission and perspective as a dressage horse are evaluated as follows:

- a) the steps and strides must be in a regular rhythm and free from tension
 - b) keeping in mind the training level of the horse, special emphasis should be placed on:
 - a smooth and steady contact
 - the willing acceptance of the bit
 - a submissive poll in the three basic paces and in the different tempi and the transitions
 - flexion and bending
 - the harmonious development on both reins
 - suppleness
 - desire to go forward
 - ability to engage the hindquarters
 - potential to collect.
 - c) during the initial movements of the test, horses that still show signs of tension and concentration lapses, or even be shying or unsettled, should be judged more benevolently than in a normal dressage competition
 - d) minor mistakes should not be given weight if, in principle, the horse is demonstrating good movements *and* is demonstrating the adoption by the trainer of desirable training technique
 - e) it is recommended that one of the judges provides a commentary after the completion of each horse's test in at least the second round but preferably for both the first and second round. This commentary is mainly for the benefit of spectators and the main purpose is to explain the rideability and strengths of the individual horse in relation to the demands at each level of competition, the quality of the three basic paces, and the horse's ability to perform as a high-level dressage horse
- a) see FEI Dressage Handbook for further notes on the purpose of and judging of Young Horse competition.

- b) for the 7 year old competitions the technical judge is looking at the way the horse copes with the demands of the test and the adjustability shown with the more difficult exercises asked for and the demand for collection, engagement and mobility. All judges have a clear focus on basics, a clear rhythm, sufficient swing in the back and engagement of the hindquarters, acceptance of the contact, lateral bend and suppleness. That the horse is balanced and straight in the work without tension and able to execute the flying changes and 1/2 pirouettes correctly. The technical and quality scores are added together.

5.8 Young Horse tests

All Young Horse tests and scoresheets are available for download from the Equestrian Australia website <see www.equestrian.org.au>