

# EVENTING STEWARDS NEWSLETTER

January 2018



Remembering Gillian Rolton

Carolyn Jones was able to attend Gillian's funeral and signed the memorial book on behalf of all stewards.

## Welcome to 2018 and the Eventing Stewards Update Newsletter!

2018 Eventing rules for FEI and EA are now available. These rules are to be read in conjunction with:

- FEI Rules for Showjumping and Dressage
- FAQs for Eventing

<http://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/2017%20Use%20of%20Tacks%20Equipment%20%26%20Dress%20-%202014%20Nov%202017.pdf>

- Summary of Approved or Not Permitted equipment for FEI Dressage Events

[http://inside.fei.org/system/files/1\\_New%20approved%20equipment%202017%20-%20DRE\\_update%2007.11.17.pdf](http://inside.fei.org/system/files/1_New%20approved%20equipment%202017%20-%20DRE_update%2007.11.17.pdf)

- Showjumping Practice fence construction

[http://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Annex%20VI%20Supplement%20Stewards%20Manual%20Jumping\\_Mark%20Up\\_%20March%202017.pdf](http://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Annex%20VI%20Supplement%20Stewards%20Manual%20Jumping_Mark%20Up_%20March%202017.pdf)

## Equestrian Australia National Eventing Rules (changes for 2018)

### CHAPTER 7 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

#### 538 Dress

##### 538.3 Cross-Country Test

Body protectors are compulsory for this Test, including when schooling over Cross-Country fences, at any time. **A back protector of Beta 3 standard, ASTM standard F1937 or equivalent is recommended.**

## 539.2 Dressage Test

e) Neck straps are permitted in test at levels Eva95 and below, and at EvA105 and above in warm-up only.

### 539.2.3 Forbidden

Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), **neck straps at levels EvA105 and above**, any form of blinkers, earplugs, nose covers and saddle covers, are under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden, see Dressage Rules and Art. 538.2.1 above.

## 539.3 Cross Country and Jumping Tests

### 539.3.1 Permitted

The type of saddlery is optional. Gags or “bitless bridles” are allowed as are unrestricted running martingales or Irish martingales. Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle. The stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside of the flap. **Neck straps are permitted.**

### Amendments to 2018 EA rules in RED

The back protector standard is recommended and is rider responsibility, we are not in a position to check standard of body protectors at any stage.

Neck straps are allowed in dressage warm up for any levels.

### FEI Competition

CCI now referred to as Long Format

CIC now referred to as Short Format

### FEI Dressage Rules 2017

#### ARTICLE 428 SADDLERY

7.1. **Ear hoods** are permitted for all Events, and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the horse's eyes and ear plugs are not permitted, with the exception of Article 428.7.2. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design.

**Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.**



This rule in red is not mentioned in FAQ but in FEI Dressage rules from this year. The ear hood attachment is allowed in CC and SJ.

### **524.2.3 Option for Horse Inspection at Short Competitions (CIC)**

*At a Short Competition, the First Horse Inspection is optional, however if one is to be held the details must be published in the schedule of the Competition. In the event that there is no First Horse Inspection, an FEI Official Veterinarian must assess the Horse's fitness to compete including a brief trot within the Examination on Arrival pursuant to 524.1 of these Eventing rules. Horses deemed by the FEI Official Veterinarian to be unfit to compete must be reported to the Ground Jury. In a Short Format Competition, the Second Horse Inspection will be compulsory if the Jumping Test is the last test.*

The rule of 2017 regarding this brief trot at arrival examination for CIC (**now Short Format**) has been working well when OC along with vet and CS organise block times to do this.

If event is on Sat/Sun block times of 7am -9am then 12 – 1.30 are a good example.

If event has dressage on Friday more times would be organized.

*Reminder of golden rules for the brief informal trot:*

- Safety for officials, riders and horses
- No rugs, bandages, ear hoods, etc.
- Bridle number and preferably with bridle
- Prevent horses/riders congregating
- Trot up track designated
- Attention to marshalling, entry and exit of horses
- No crossover of horses on entry and exit if possible
- Pathway for quick exit.

### **FEI Level 1 and 2 Eventing Stewards course - Taupo in New Zealand, May 10 -13, 2018**

We already have a number of EA Stewards ready to attend this for accreditation to Level 1. If you know of anyone interested, please contact me for further details.

### **EA Stewards**

I have presented EA Steward courses this year in Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria and am pleased to report we have a number of people accrediting to EA steward with more courses planned for 2018. We already have interest in SA and NSW. I am always looking for people who may be interested in stewarding, not everyone attending the course finds it is for them but in many cases it helps with their decision on how they can continue their involvement in Eventing.

If you know of anyone who may show an interest in stewarding please

- send me their details
- organise for a session of shadow stewarding
- encourage and support

### **Officials Forum 24-25<sup>th</sup> February**

Officials Forum for all which will also be linked to Refresher/Promotion courses for Medication Control Stewards and General Stewards at the Oakbank Racing Club Inc, 46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank SA 5243. Further information from Di Saunders at EA





*Stewarding in all weather at Adelaide 2017 from 13 – 31 degrees*



*Multi tasking at Adelaide!*



**A thank you to our international stewards who have worked with us in 2017:**



Susan Geddes (NZ) and Peter Ponsonby (Ireland) – MIHT (here with Chris Wallis)



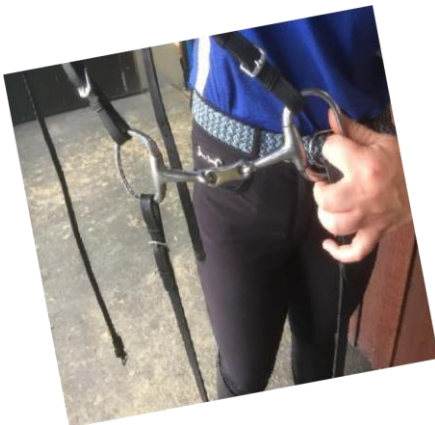
Janet Evans – AIHT (here with Rod Winchester at Puhinui 2015)



Katie Christie - Wallaby Hill (here with mum, Helen Christie, a regular visitor)



**Recent gear enquiries:**



*Cool down for CC same the world over from MIHT to Blair Castle Scotland*



The FEI has launched the free **FEI RuleApp**, which gives access to the full official FEI rules and regulations. The app, available now on the Apple Store and Google Play, allows users to easily view the latest FEI rules and regulations in a “virtual bookshelf” approach, both online and offline, on mobile devices.

**Instant search and find:** With the simple instant search feature embedded in the FEI RuleApp, users can immediately find exactly what they need by typing a few key words.

**Getting organized:** The FEI RuleApp has a host of additional features, including a share function for social applications, and the option to print pages for reference. The app also has a handy bookmark feature, allowing users the opportunity to go back to specific parts of the FEI rules and regulations for quick reference.

**Staying up-to-date:** FEI RuleApp users will be kept up-to-date with any changes to the FEI rules and regulations with instant notifications, and thanks to automatic updates by the FEI, access to the very latest rules and regulations is guaranteed. The FEI RuleApp is currently available in English, Chinese, French, German, Italian and Russian. “The new FEI RuleApp is the latest of our stable of tailored apps for athletes, officials and our growing equestrian fan base,” explained Gaspard Dufour, FEI Head of IT. “All of our apps are designed to cater to specific needs, and the FEI RuleApp is perfect for everyone preparing for competition and on the ground at events with the helpful online and offline modes.”

**Download the FEI RuleApp:**

Apple Store <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fei-ruleapp/id982217322>

Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.fei.ruleapp>



Message from FEI received December 14 2017.



“At the moment, this stirrup is not approved by the FEI Dressage Department, therefore it is not approved for the Eventing dressage Test.”

It is to be reviewed by the FEI Eventing committee, until then it is not allowed for cross country and showjumping.

### **Report from Julane Bowen:**

It's great to be back.

It seems a simple statement but it means so much to me as I head into 2018 with trepidation. As many of you know, due some significant personal matters of which I will explain in more detail at a later date, I have spent the bulk of 2017 in hospital sitting beside my dear husband. Because of this, I did not have much opportunity to get out to events throughout 2017.

But, thankfully, the year ended better than it began and I was able to volunteer at 3 events to see out 2017. It was truly wonderful to be out there again with my Steward friends and amongst the equestrian community. I have felt so much unreserved support from the community and that has helped me immensely to have the emotional strength to see through these troubled days.

Being out there in the fresh air and nature, surrounded by genuine friends and supporters did everything to remind me why I chose to be an Eventing Steward in the first place. I was first back on the ground at Goulburn working with a superb team guided by CS Jenny Merity and backed up by old friend Bronwyn Hew. It was excellent to laugh heaps and I totally love the gifts they presented me on arrival. My new shirt and jacket are both the talking point amongst competitors and other Stewards; with both Dressage and Jumping Stewards interested in pursuing these as warm weather options to our yellow vests. I've included a picture for those who haven't seen them yet but I think as we consider warm weather options the discussion is certainly worth having for these lovely shirts.



One of the first things I noticed being back out on the grounds was my own lack of confidence in my answers. I had studied my rules leading up to Goulburn but I hadn't stewarded properly since Albury earlier in the year and it is amazing how quickly I had come to lack confidence in my own ability. We were also lucky to have a very enthusiastic new trainee with us and Sue was excellent in reminding me that our attitude and knowledge of where to find the rules as opposed to just rattle them off is what really matters to our sport. And best of all was that there were several "new" items of gear that had big question marks and so we referred them to our Steward General who was able to quickly respond with a thumbs up or thumbs down along with a reminder that it's important to seek advice before giving it to riders! Thank goodness for our WhatsApp group 😊

My next event was Adelaide and I was so lucky to be surrounded by so much experience throughout the event. It was a reminder that to be effective requires ongoing practice and that it's best to attend events regularly to

keep abreast of everything that comes with being a Steward. Even just catching up with competitors and their connections was invaluable as these are the people who we rely on to set the standard for everyone else out there. Adelaide was also excellent for me in that it is such a significant event as the only 4\* in the Southern Hemisphere. There is a unique atmosphere about the event and being able to be a member of such an experienced and dedicated team of Stewards is truly a privilege.



Of course, this year was a little melancholy as we lost an Eventing great in Gill Rolton, and that was particularly challenging for me as it reminded me of what lies ahead in my personal future, but the overall support across all the Officials, volunteers, competitors and general equestrian population was humbling to say the least. The other benefit to Adelaide is the international connections you make that opens doors to events around the world so you get a feel for how others Steward in other parts of the world. It is truly enlightening to learn new ways and recognise that perhaps, sometimes, there is a better way. Also, working with people who don't know the local riders was excellent in that it reminded me to always treat everyone exactly the same; that is the essence of FEI sport; everyone is equal in competition

My last event for 2017 was the CCI3\* at Wallaby Hill where I was honoured to be CS again. This is an incredible event run at the most lovely private venue and manned by the most devoted volunteers to be found. I was supported by a super experienced team in Jenny Merity and Chris Wallis, and again backed up with an enthusiastic EA Steward in Elysha Sargent. Unfortunately, Bronwyn Hew had to back out at the last moment due an earlier than planned birth (all good) for an employee; but we were graced with help from the very experienced Katie Russell (Helen Christie's daughter) who was on her last international gig for a while as she too is about to pop her first child. All in all, it was a great team, at a great event.



Being back out in my yellow vest proved a fantastic mental health break for me and a reminder that I actually Steward eventing because I love the camaraderie that is equestrian, especially eventing. I want to say thanks to everyone who has sent best wishes throughout the year, who have offered support and who have had my back. Especially to Jenny who has braved early breakfast with me at least fortnightly throughout all of 2017 and lent an ear to my frustrations with the public health system which seemed to have ensnared us. And to Chris who has also regularly checked in on me, offered me emotional support and was on hand to support me at both Adelaide (thanks for the invitation Chris) and Wallaby Hill.

While I will still be very restricted in the time I can devote to my Stewarding this year, I very much look forward to seeing my Steward friends out and about somewhere. Thank you so much for being such an excellent group with which to spend my time.

Happy 2018  
Julane



### **Name badges EA and FEI**

Badges are available. Please let me know if you would like a badge, \$12 with P&H. Both Equestrian Australia and FEI available. Please send name as you would like it on the badge and position ie Steward, Chief Steward etc.



### **A few tips for stewarding.**

*Cooperation and responsibility*

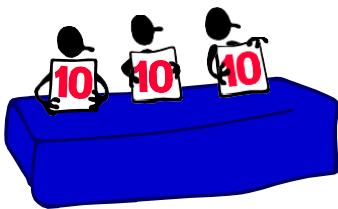
*Every effort should be made to have a good working relationship with Athletes, FEI Officials, owners, chefs d'equipe, trainers, grooms and Organising Committee.*

*It is much better to prevent a rule being broken rather than having to react afterwards. In order to be able to intervene at the correct time, a good knowledge of the Rules and Regulations is necessary and where to find the rule.*

*The athlete alone is anyway responsible for his own respect for the Rules. Whilst a steward may, when asked, give advice he never takes this responsibility away from the athlete.*

*"It is important to be consistent in your behaviour, style and decision making regardless of the situation or how well you know (personally or performance wise) any of the competitors or coaches."*

**I hope the stewarding team have had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



**Looking forward to a fabulous 2018**

