

**Equestrian Australia Limited**



**EQUESTRIAN  
AUSTRALIA**

**SUMMARY OF  
NATIONAL  
INTERSCHOOL  
RULES**

**Effective 01 January 2017**

The Equestrian Australia National Interschool Rules  
may also be found on the Equestrian Australia Website:

[www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)

Item	Revised Wording	Justification
Rule 2	<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p>School – A school is defined as one that is registered as a school as part of the State’s Education System. It includes home school, <del>and</del> school of the air <del>and</del> TAFE where a student under the age of 19 is enrolled in full time study but does not include TAFE (part time), University or other technical colleges.</p>	TAFE currently offers HSC courses to secondary students therefore; this rule change will allow those students who are under the age of 19 and studying their HSC at TAFE the ability to compete within Interschool.
Rule 7.1	<p><b>Athletes</b></p> <p>Athletes must hold the appropriate level of EA membership and be currently enrolled as a student in a school as defined below:</p> <p>A school is defined as one that is registered as a school as part of the State’s Education System. It includes home school, <del>and</del> school of the air <del>and</del> TAFE where a student under the age of 19 is enrolled in full time study, but does not include TAFE (part time), University of other technical colleges.</p>	TAFE currently offers HSC courses to secondary students therefore; this rule change will allow those students who are under the age of 19 and studying their HSC at TAFE the ability to compete within Interschool.
Rule 7.3	<p><b>Age of Horses</b></p> <p><del>As per National Sport Rules for each discipline: For Jumping and Eventing competitions, All horses and ponies must be four years of age or older to compete in Interschool competitions. Horses’ ages are assessed from 1 August of the year of birth. For Dressage and Show Horse competitions, horses and ponies must be three years or older.</del></p>	Rule change to require the minimum age of horses at all Interschool competitions to be 4 years of age or older for safety concerns; notably rider & bystander safety and horse welfare concerns.
Rule 7.6	<p><b>Grading and Qualification</b></p> <p>As per National Sport Rules for each discipline.</p> <p>Horses that have an FEI Dressage grading are permitted to compete at Advanced Dressage level for Interschool competitions only where FEI-level classes are not offered.</p> <p>For Dressage, grading is assessed as at the closing date of entries as per EA National Dressage Rules.</p> <p><del>Horse/Rider combinations that are established at 2* level may compete at 1* level at Australian Interschool Championships if no 2* class is offered. [to be ratified by NIC and NEC].</del></p> <p>Athletes are responsible for ascertaining that they and their horse are correctly qualified and competent for a class that they are entering. Individual States may set minimum qualification requirements for nomination to State and Australian Championships.</p>	<p>Grading clarification for Dressage, that grading is assessed at closing date of entries to adhere to current National Dressage Rule 1.15.4.</p> <p>Removal of the sentence that references 2* classes, as 2* classes are not currently offered at any Interschool events.</p>
Rule 8.14	<p><b>Dressage</b></p> <p>Two judges must be used for both sections of each Dressage class at Championship events. Different</p>	This additional wording currently sits within rule 9.1 (under competitions), however is better suited to sit within rule 8.14 alongside other rules mentioning the use of judges in

	<p>judges must be used for each section of each Dressage class.</p> <p>Judges will be drawn from the NOAS according to the following table, however two judges (of the correct level) must be used for each test at Australian Championship level. Number of judges required per class as per EA National Dressage Rules.</p>	each event.
Rule 8.16	<p><b>Eventing – Dressage</b></p> <p><del>CNC* and CNC** classes are to be judged by two EA NOAS judges. EvA105, EvA95 and EvA80 classes are to be judged by one or two EA NOAS judges. Judges will be appointed as per EA National Eventing Rules.</del></p>	Wording change to clarify the adherence to the current EA National Eventing Rules.
Rule 9.1	<p><b>Dressage</b></p> <p>Dressage Competitions, although not Official (as the event are limited to Interschool athletes), must be run under current EA National Dressage Rules. Found at - <u>National Dressage Rules</u>.</p> <p><del>Restrictions in EA National Dressage relating to age of riders for horses and ponies in rule 1.15.9 does not apply at Interschool.</del></p> <p>The levels of dressage offered at Australian Championships include Preliminary and Novice for Primary students, and Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium and Advanced for Secondary students.</p> <p>FEI (small tour) tests may also be offered to suitably qualified entrants to encourage further participation at these levels and to expose junior athletes to a higher level of performance.</p> <p><del>Judges will be drawn from the NOAS according to the following table, however two judges (of the correct level) must be used for each test at Australian Championship level. Number of judges required per class as per the EA National Dressage Rules.</del></p>	<p>Currently the Dressage rule 1.15.9 states that riders may only enter official competition with a horse when they turn 12 years of age. As riders are competing under the age of 12 at Interschool competition, this rule change will exempt those riders who wish to compete in Dressage at Interschool with a horse.</p> <p>Removal of wording relating to Dressage judges as this wording is better suited to sit within rule 8.14 alongside other rules mentioning the use of judges in each event.</p>
Rule 10.2.2	<p><b>Age of Athletes</b></p> <p>The Australian Interschool Championships caters for athletes from primary and secondary schools across the country.</p> <p>Primary competition is restricted to athletes <del>up to 12 years</del> enrolled up to and including year/grade 6 in the year of competition. <del>Those athletes who may be over 12 years of age and still enrolled in Primary School may apply to the NIC for special consideration to be allowed to compete as a Primary school students.</del></p> <p>The Secondary competition is for those <del>turning 12</del> enrolled in year 7 to 12 inclusive in the year of competition <del>to those, up to turning 18 years of age</del> in</p>	Rule updated as all States are now aligned with Primary aged students starting at Year 6.

	<p>the year of competition. Organising committees may, with the approval of the NIC, include Intermediate divisions in suitable classes. Intermediate is defined as those athletes <del>turning 12 (if in Secondary school) 13, and 14 years old in the current year</del> enrolled in years 7, 8 and 9. Senior divisions are for those athletes <del>turning 15, 16, 17 and 18 years of age</del> enrolled in years 10, 11 and 12 in the current year.</p> <p>Students over 18 years of age, who are members of EA, and who are full time high school students, may apply for special consideration to be allowed to compete.</p>	
Rule 10.5	<p><b>Horse Inspections</b></p> <p>A horse inspection <del>is to be</del> <b>may be</b> scheduled no more than 24 hours prior to the start of competition at Australian Interschool Championships <del>at the discretion of the organising committee. If a full trot-up inspection is not conducted, the organizing committee is still required to confirm the identity of the entered horses and conduct an initial health assessment prior to admission to the venue.</del></p> <p><b>The purpose of horse inspections is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify Horses</li> <li>• To ensure soundness and health of horses</li> <li>• To provide a learning opportunity for junior/young athletes.</li> </ul> <p>The aim of the Horse Inspection is to ensure the identity and fitness to compete of horses taking part in competitions by providing the same objective protocol for all disciplines. The person responsible (the nominated athlete of the horse at an Australian Interschool Championship) should present the horse for inspection.</p> <p>The horse's identity is checked against its papers (to be provided by the States' chefs d'equipe). The handler stands the horse before walking and trotting away from and toward the inspection panel, as directed by the stewards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses are to be presented in a snaffle bridle with ID number</li> <li>• Handlers are to be neatly dressed, and wearing enclosed shoes</li> <li>• No rugs or bandages</li> <li>• No dye or paint on horses</li> <li>• Hooves must not be blackened or coloured in any way</li> <li>• Whips are not allowed (unless permission is given by the President of the Ground Jury)</li> </ul> <p>Should the inspection panel be concerned as to the soundness of any horse, they will consult with to the</p>	<p>Rule amended to be an optional requirement for the organising committee at the Australian Interschool Championships in order to ease scheduling and provide an additional day for classes. The organising committee would be responsible for ensuring the identity of horses is completed and horses are picked up by judges, stewards or technical delegates during competition if they have soundness/health issues. Suggested that horse inspections can be done during interschool clinics or other competitions as an educational opportunity for interschool riders.</p>

	<p>event veterinarian at the conclusion of the horse inspection/s. Refer to the Interschool Horse Inspection Annex for further information.</p>	
<p>Rule 10.6.3</p>	<p><b>Champion Discipline Teams</b></p> <p>Sashes/ribbons are awarded for teams placed 1st to 3rd, with the following team awards offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Primary Dressage</li> <li>II. Primary Show Jumping</li> <li>III. Primary Combined Training</li> <li>IV. Primary Show Horse</li> <li>V. Secondary Dressage</li> <li>VI. Secondary Show Jumping</li> <li>VII. Secondary Combined Training</li> <li>VIII. <del>Secondary</del> Eventing</li> <li>IX. Secondary Show Horse</li> <li>X. Freestyle Teams are optional</li> </ul> <p>Individual championship points are used to determine the champion, reserve champion and 3rd placed team in each team discipline. Team Points are awarded where an athlete has completed all phases/sections of a class without elimination or disqualification.</p> <p>When calculating a discipline team score, the total individual points of the top three individuals (within each discipline) are counted. The fourth member's points (if there is a 4th member) are used only to determine the outcome in the case of a tie. In Eventing as 5th riders are allowed in classes all riders scores may be considered to count toward the team score.</p> <p>In the event there are multiple team members on the same individual points the riders that have competed at the highest level scores will be counted.</p> <p>Where a rider has competed in more than one championship in a discipline, only the highest championship score is counted eg. If a rider competes in elementary and novice dressage championships then the championship that has accrued the highest points counts.</p> <p>Where a rider competes on more than one horse in a discipline only one of the riders scores may count towards the team score eg a rider cannot be in a team on 2 horses.</p>	<p>Champion Discipline Team name change to recognise that Primary aged riders are permitted to compete in Eventing.</p>