

Equestrian Australia Limited



**NATIONAL DRESSAGE RULES- RIDERS SECTIONS & ANNEXES**

This shortened version of the Australian Dressage Rules contains the rules most pertinent to **RIDERS**. Note that the rules in their entirety as per the full rulebook always apply.

Effective  
1 July 2021  
CLEAN VERSION

The Equestrian Australia National Dressage Rules may also be found on the Equestrian Australia website: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/>

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## Table of Contents

Preamble .....	6
Glossary and definitions.....	6
SECTION 1 GENERAL CONDITIONS .....	9
1.1 Acceptance of the rules .....	9
1.2 Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.....	9
1.3 Abuse of the horse ( <i>Article 142</i> , FEI General Regulations and EA rules) .....	10
1.4 Bleeding .....	11
1.5 Protests, reports, appeals and Yellow Warning Cards.....	11
1.6 Anti-doping and medication control.....	12
1.7 Conflict of interest .....	12
SECTION 2 PACES AND MOVEMENTS .....	14
2.1 Objects and general principles .....	15
2.2 The halt.....	15
2.3 The walk .....	16
2.4 The trot.....	17
2.5 The canter .....	19
2.6 The rein back.....	20
2.7 The transitions .....	21
2.8 The half-halts .....	21
2.9 Changes of directions .....	21
2.10 Figures.....	21
2.11 Leg-yielding.....	22
2.12 The lateral movements.....	23
2.13 The pirouette, the half-pirouette and turn on the haunches .....	26
2.14 The passage.....	27
2.15 The piaffe.....	28
2.16 Impulsion .....	28
2.17 The collection .....	29
2.18 The position and aids of the rider .....	30
SECTION 3 DRESSAGE EVENTS .....	31
3.1 Approval of Official events.....	31
3.2 Competitions.....	31
3.3 Statement of liability .....	31
3.4 Timing of the draw .....	31
3.5 Conducting same test for different categories .....	31

3.6	Arena requirements .....	31
3.7	Entering the arena (See Annex D <i>Arena Familiarisation</i> ) .....	32
3.8	Dismounting/Fall during test .....	32
3.9	Test time .....	33
3.10	Resistance/Disobedience .....	33
3.11	Unauthorised assistance .....	33
3.12	Movement and access of horses at competition grounds.....	33
3.13	Scale of marks .....	34
3.14	Called tests .....	34
3.15	Execution of tests .....	35
3.16	Use of voice .....	355
3.17	Penalties and Errors of Course .....	35
3.18	Lameness .....	37
3.19	Awards and placings.....	37
3.20	Prize money .....	38
3.21	Number/Level of judges required for Official Competitive and Official Participation Competitions .....	38
3.22	Interruptions and risk management .....	39
3.23	Fall or injury to horse or rider.....	39
SECTION 4 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY .....		40
4.1	Authority to determine eligibility of horse and/or rider for competition .....	40
4.2	Entry of horses and riders .....	40
4.3	Scratchings/Withdrawals.....	40
4.4	Gear check .....	40
4.5	Youth events .....	40
4.6	Types of competitions at Official events.....	41
4.7	Types of competitions at Restricted events.....	41
4.8	Conditions of Entry for horses and ponies for all levels of Competitive and Participation competition .....	42
4.9	Upgrading points .....	47
4.10	Downgrading of horses/ponies.....	48
4.11	Conditions of Entry for Participation competitions .....	49
4.12	Hors Concours (HC) .....	49
4.13	Declaration .....	49
4.14	Conditions of Entry table .....	50
SECTION 5 DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT.....		52
5.1	Compulsory dress by level and penalties for incorrect dress and equipment .....	52

5.2	Headgear and helmets .....	52
5.3	Footwear .....	53
5.4	Gaiters/Chapettes .....	53
5.5	Spurs .....	53
5.6	Whips .....	54
5.7	Shirts and neck wear .....	54
5.8	Jackets and coats .....	54
5.9	Pocket badges and Advertising .....	55
5.10	Saddles and saddlecloths .....	55
5.11	Bridles, nosebands and bits .....	55
5.12	Table of equipment permitted/not permitted .....	59
5.13	Lunging equipment .....	60
5.14	Ear hoods .....	60
5.15	Nose nets .....	60
5.16	Over-boots/Hoof boots .....	60
5.17	Protective coverings/ Boots/ Bandages .....	61
5.18	Exemption Cards and riders with a disability .....	61
5.19	Gear check list .....	62
5.20	Permitted bits .....	65
5.21	Permitted nosebands .....	69
5.22	Lunging Gear .....	70
5.23	Nose Net – Refer to rule 5.15 .....	70
SECTION 6 ROLE OF OFFICIALS .....		71
6.1	Ground Jury .....	71
6.2	Appeal Committee .....	71
6.3	Technical Delegate (TD) .....	72
6.4	Chef d'Equipe .....	73
6.5	Stewards .....	73
6.6	Chief Steward .....	75
6.7	FEI Steward .....	75
ANNEXES .....		76
Annex A	Dressage arenas and Diagrams of the geometry of riding movements .....	76
Annex B	FEI guidelines for pre- and post-competition training techniques .....	80
Annex C	Hot weather policy .....	82
Annex D	Arena familiarisation and altered circumstances at EA events .....	88
Annex E	Elimination and penalties .....	89

To be read in conjunction with the EA General Regulations and other EA policies and By-Law available on the EA website [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au) - These rules are effective from 1 July 2021. From this date on, all other texts covering the same matter are superseded

## Preamble

The following rules have been adopted by Equestrian Australia (EA) and must be followed by all affiliated organisations conducting dressage events on behalf of EA or under EA rules. They follow as closely as possible the rules laid down by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). Some FEI rules have been modified to suit Australian conditions. If issues arise which are not covered in the EA rules then the FEI rules apply. In the event of a conflict between EA rules and FEI rules, the FEI rules will prevail. Any modified EA rules do not apply in a FEI-sanctioned event.

These rules cannot provide for every eventuality. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the appropriate official(s) to make a decision in a sporting spirit and adhere as closely as possible to the intention of these rules

Notwithstanding anything stipulated in these rules, the Equestrian Australian Dressage Committee (EADC) has full discretion and complete authority to omit, amend and interpret these rules in their absolute discretion and to give or to withhold any explanation of its decision.

These rules refer to EA dressage, FEI dressage at EA events, and Eventing dressage. For the rules relating to FEI-sanctioned dressage events refer to the FEI rules at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## Glossary and definitions

Below is a list of commonly used abbreviations and acronyms used throughout this rulebook.

### Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms

AOR	Amateur Owner Rider
CDI	Concours de Dressage International
CDI-W, Y, J or P	Concours de Dressage International including World Cup, Young Riders, Juniors, Ponies
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EA	Equestrian Australia Ltd
EADC	Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee
EADOC	Equestrian Australia Dressage Officials Committee
EOC	Error of Course
FEI	Federation Equestre Internationale
HC	Hors Concours
JSC	Judges Sub Committee
NF	National Federation (e.g. Equestrian Australia)
NO	National Office (of EA)
OC	Organising Committee
PE	Para-Equestrian
PR	Person Responsible
SDA	State Dressage Authority (e.g. State Dressage Committee)
YH	Young Horse

## Definitions

Below is a list of definitions of commonly used terms:

- a) a **dressage test** is a series of prescribed movements performed by horse and rider and assessed by dressage judges
- b) a **dressage competition** is one or more horse and rider combinations performing the same prescribed test and assessed by dressage judges to determine the winner and ranking of performance
- c) a **dressage event** is comprised of one or more competitions between individual mounted competitors, performing specified dressage tests
  - an **Official event** is an event approved by the EA, conducted by an EA affiliated club or organisation, and comprised of Competitive and/or Participation competitions
  - a **Competitive** competition is one where grading points can be accrued and recorded
  - a **Participation** competition is one where grading points are not accrued and recorded
- d) a **Restricted event** is an event comprised of any level of test, conducted by an EA club for its own club members only and/or club activities for club members against invited EA members to a maximum level of Participation competition, up to and including current Novice test and Para-Equestrian tests
- e) the **bell** includes any device used to signal to a competitor
- f) **level** refers to the standards of tests. (See rule 4.8.2 *Definition of levels*)
- g) **Organising Committee** (OC) refers to an EA-affiliated organisation, group, society or body held to be responsible for the management of any dressage event
- h) **competition area** includes the competition arena and immediate surrounding area
- i) **exercise area** refers to the entire area covered by the park, centre, oval, showground or similar area where an event is being held
- j) **warm-up area** refers to an area designated by the OC as being the warm-up area for competitions
- k) **FEI-level** tests refer to FEI level tests run under EA rules; FEI tests refer to FEI tests run at FEI sanctioned events
- l) **horse** refers to horses and ponies unless 'pony' is otherwise specified
- m) **pony** refers to ponies not exceeding 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- n) a **Combination** refers to a horse or pony and rider combination
- o) a **Ground Jury** is made up of all of the officiating judges for an event or a competition
- p) the **Chef d'Equipe** is a person assigned to be the manager of a team
- q) **FEI-sanctioned event** refers to events that have approval from the FEI, i.e. CDI-W, Y, J or P or CDIPE
- r) a **Steward** is a trained, and currently accredited FEI or EA official responsible for ensuring that the event is conducted in accordance with the rules
- s) the **Chief Judge** is the judge positioned at C for the competition
- t) a **gear check** is having the horse and rider's equipment and attire inspected to ensure it complies with the rules
- u) Eventing Dressage – Refer to the National Eventing Rules - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/eventing-rules>
- v) **Horse Identification Numbers** are important and compulsory at events for the purpose of horse identification and can for example relate to bridle number and saddlecloth number.

### **Equestrian Australian Dressage Committee (EADC)**

The EADC operates under the powers delegated to it by Section 2 of the EA Committee By-Law. The EADC reports to the EA Board. In summary it has the following responsibilities:

- a) to formulate the strategic direction of the sport of dressage in Australia and facilitate its implementation
- b) to advise and offer recommendations to the Board on national rules and policies for the sport of dressage (including Para-Equestrian)
- c) to implement FEI policy and rules applicable to the sport
- d) to work cooperatively with the High Performance Manager, National Performance Director, State Dressage Authorities and other key stakeholders
- e) in conjunction with the National Education guidelines, maintain, train and appoint adequate numbers of national and FEI-qualified officials, who must be members of EA
- f) establish sub-committees for the sport subject to approval by National Board (e.g. the Equestrian Australia Dressage Judges Committee)
- g) promote and facilitate conduct of the sport in Australia within EA National policy
- h) facilitate the development of the sport for all participants, from youth riders to international level, within the framework of the EA strategic plan
- i) assist in raising funds within the framework of national policy of the Board

### **Equestrian Australian Dressage Officials Committee (EADOC)**

The EADOC reports to the Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee (EADC) and is responsible for contributing to the development of policy and monitoring application of policy for the following:

- a) encouragement, support and ongoing education of dressage officials
- b) assessment and accreditation examinations of national dressage judges, including Para-Equestrian, in Australia
- c) selection, development of programs and mentoring of suitable National A level dressage judges who wish to become FEI accredited
- d) act as the final arbiter in issues related to judging standards and judges which have not been resolved by State Dressage Authorities (SDA) (These do not include cases that would be subject to a disciplinary tribunal established under the EA Disciplinary By-Law or related to the EA Member Protection Policy)
- e) assist in the development and implementation of the National Judges Seminars list
- f) assist in the conduct of national and international forums for judges, judge educators and mentors
- g) in-conjunction with the EA Pathways Officer for Officials - foster the development, mentoring, education, assessment and accreditation of Dressage Judges, Stewards and Technical Delegates



## SECTION 1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

### 1.1 Acceptance of the rules

- a) all members of the EA shall accept and be bound by these rules
- b) making an entry for any event constitutes implicit acceptance of these rules
- c) competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with these rules. It remains the full responsibility of the rider to comply with the equipment rules as outlined
- d) breach of the rules may entail elimination unless other penalties are stipulated
- e) EA Dressage rules apply from the time the horse arrives on the grounds

### 1.2 Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

The following code has been developed by the FEI and adopted by the EA:

#### 1. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands

- a) *good horse management* — Stabling, feeding and training must be compatible with good horse management and must not compromise welfare of the horse. Any practices that could cause physical or mental suffering, in or out of competition, will not be tolerated
- b) *training methods* — horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to any training methods which are abusive, cause fear or for which they have not been properly prepared
- c) *farriery and tack* — Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury
- d) *transport* — During transportation, horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent staff. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the horses
- e) *transit* — All journeys must be planned carefully, and horses permitted regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with FEI guidelines

#### 2. Horses and riders must be fit, competent and in good health before they are permitted to compete

- a) *fitness and competence* — Participation in competition must be restricted to fit horses and riders of proven competence
- b) *health status* — No horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness, significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete or continue to compete if its welfare would be compromised. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt
- c) *doping and medication* — Abuse of medication and doping is a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be permitted for the horse's full recovery before competition
- d) *surgical procedures* — Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing horse's welfare or the safety of other horses and/or riders must not be permitted
- e) *pregnant/Recently foaled mares* — A mare must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot
- f) *misuse of aids* — Abuse of a horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc) will not be tolerated

### **3. Events must not prejudice horse welfare**

- a) *competition areas* — horses must only be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles must be designed with the safety of the horse in mind
- b) *ground surfaces* — All ground surfaces which horses walk, train or compete on must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injuries. Particular attention must be paid to the preparation, composition and upkeep of surfaces
- c) *extreme weather* — Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised. Provision must be made for cooling horses quickly after competing in hot or humid conditions. (Refer to Annex C EA Hot Weather Policy)
- d) *stabling at events* — Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well-ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the horse. Appropriate feed and clean bedding, fresh drinking water and washing-down water must always be available
- e) *fitness to travel* — After competition a horse must be fit to travel in accordance with the FEIs guidelines

### **4. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over**

- a) *veterinary treatment* — Veterinary expertise must always be available at an event. If a horse is injured or exhausted during a competition, the rider must dismount and a veterinarian must check the horse
- b) *referral centres* — Wherever necessary, the horse should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured horses must be given full supportive treatment before transport
- c) *competition injuries* — The incidence of injuries sustained in competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries
- d) *euthanasia* — If injuries are sufficiently severe, the horse may need to be euthanised by a veterinarian as soon as possible on humane grounds and with the sole aim of minimising suffering
- e) *retirement* — Every effort should be made to ensure that horses are treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from competition

### **5. The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in their areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the competition horse**

## **1.3 Abuse of the horse (Article 142, FEI General Regulations and EA rules)**

No person may abuse a horse during an event or at any other time. 'Abuse' means an action or omission that causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse, including without limitation any of the following:

- a) whipping or beating a horse excessively
- b) subjecting a horse to any kind of electric shock device
- c) using spurs excessively or persistently
- d) jabbing the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device
- e) competing on an exhausted, lame or injured horse
- f) 'rapping' a horse
- g) abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a horse
- h) leaving a horse without adequate food, drink or exercise
- i) using any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse if it knocks down an obstacle

### 1.3.1 Reporting of abuse

Anyone witnessing an incident of abuse must report it in the form of a written protest (see EA General Regulations *Article 163*) in confidence to the OC immediately who will refer the matter on their behalf within 14 days to the State Branch authority to initiate action. Competitors are alerted to the fact that, as well as FEI and EA General Regulation 142, cruel application of spurs, whips or bits is illegal in some Australian states and territories.

### 1.3.2 Unable to fulfil the requirements of the test

Where the Judge at C is of the opinion that the horse and rider combination are not able to fulfil the requirements of the level of the test; and/or the performance is not in the best interests of the horse's welfare due to extreme tension; and/or clearly shows abusive riding, the combination will be eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

## 1.4 Bleeding

- a) if the Judge at C sights fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the judge clarifies through examination that the horse shows no fresh blood, the test may resume
- b) the sighting of any fresh blood on the horse at the gear check prior to or during the test will entail elimination. There is no appeal against this decision
- c) if the Steward or gear checker discover fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the horse. If the Steward or gear checker discover fresh blood anywhere else on the horse's body at the end of the test, the horse is not automatically eliminated, but the Judge at C may eliminate the horse
- d) a veterinarian may inspect the horse after elimination to decide if the horse is fit to continue in another test and inform the OC in writing of the decision prior to that test. The veterinarian's opinion is final

### 1.4.1 Protective covering

Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not, is strictly forbidden at an event and will entail elimination if used. Refer to 5.17.

## 1.5 Protests, reports, appeals and Yellow Warning Cards

Officials and competitors need to abide by the Codes of Conduct as contained in the EA Member Protection Policy. Refer to the EA General Regulations Articles 163, 164 and 165, EA Codes of Conduct, EA Member Protection Policy and its associated Attachment D1 Complaints Procedures, EA Disciplinary By-laws at [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au) for processes.

Refer to EA General Regulations *Article 169.6.3* for the potential penalty in relation to complaints about incorrect behaviour towards event officials or any other party connected with the event (e.g. other rider, journalist, public member, etc).

### 1.5.1 A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible (PR) for the following:

- a) abuse of horse (an action or omission involving the mistreatment of a horse). Any incidents considered to be serious Abuse of the Horse may be better dealt with through the formal Protest procedure as outlined in Dressage Rule 1.3.1. However, it is possible to both issue a Yellow Warning Card and pursue formal protest procedure
- b) abuse of an Official (including abusive or bullying behaviour directed to an Official and conduct directed toward an Official that denigrates the Official)
- c) failure to follow a direction of an Official relating to compliance with these rules

- d) serious infringements involving Abuse of Horse, Abuse of an Official or failure to follow a direction relating to compliance with these Rules must incur a Yellow Warning Card, unless lodged as a formal protest and subject to EA General Regulations (see above)

**1.5.2 An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card is any of the following:**

- an FEI or National-accredited Steward
- an EA Technical Delegate
- an FEI-accredited Judge
- an EA National Judge Educator

An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card only when officiating at an Event. They can be given either by hand or any other suitable means and will state the reason for the Yellow Warning Card.

The Official who awards the Yellow Warning Card must notify the Person Responsible, the Ground Jury where applicable and the CEO of the State Branch where the incident occurred of the Yellow Warning Card as soon as possible.

The Yellow Warning Card is to be delivered personally during the Period of the Event. If after reasonable efforts the Person Responsible cannot be notified during the Period of the Event that they have received a Yellow Warning Card, the Person Responsible must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event. A Yellow Warning Card may be issued in addition to any other sanction(s) that may be issued in accordance with the EA General Regulations and/or the relevant Sport Rules.

**1.5.3** It is preferable for a Parent/Guardian to be present when a rider under the age of 18 is issued with the Yellow Warning Card.

**1.5.4** Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) at the same or any other Event (whether Australian or International) within one year of the award of the first Yellow Warning Card, the matter shall be referred to the State Branch CEO who shall determine whether to refer the Person Responsible to a Judicial Committee.

**1.5.5** The Official who awards that Yellow Warning Card, will advise the State Branch CEO (from the State the event occurred in) and State Dressage Committee (from the State that the event occurred in) of the issue of Yellow Warning Card/s and the reasons for its issue within 48 hours after the delivery of the Yellow Warning Card to the Person Responsible. The State Branch CEO shall advise EA within 72 hours thereafter. EA will arrange for the Yellow Warning Card issued to be entered into its national database.

**1.5.6** A Yellow Warning Card is a decision arising from the field of play and as such there is no Appeal against the issuing of a Yellow Warning Card.

**1.6 Anti-doping and medication control**

Horses and riders may be subject to random in-competition testing. Refer to the EA and FEI Equine Anti-doping and Medication Control Rules (EADMC) and the EA (Rider) Anti-doping Policy. For more information visit [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au), [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org) or [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au)

**1.7 Conflict of interest**

For the guidelines relating to any conflict of interest, refer to EA General Regulations, *Article 158* and please note the following additions as detailed below.

**1.7.1 People may *not* officiate as a judge of an event if:**

- a) they are officiating as a veterinary officer for the same event
- b) they are a member of the Appeal Committee for the same event
- c) they are a Chef d'Equipe or team official for competitors entered in the event

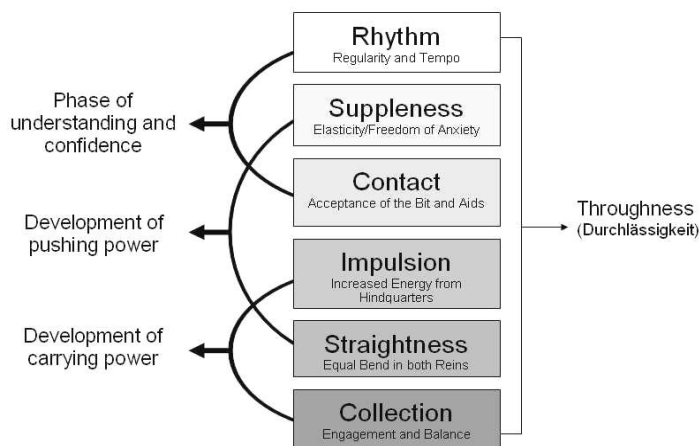
**1.7.2 People may *not* officiate as a judge of a competition if:**

- a) a rider in the competition is a family member
- b) they are in a National Elite Squad and are asked to judge a fellow member of the same squad in a Grand Prix competition
- c) they have given or ridden in a riding clinic within 2 weeks prior to the event and a rider, coach or horse who has participated in that clinic will be in the competition
- d) they are providing or receiving private billeted accommodation from/to a competitor scheduled to be in the competition they are judging
- e) they are an owner or part owner of a horse taking part in that competition
- f) they regularly give or receive training/coaching from/to a horse and/or rider taking part in the competition
- g) they have a financial interest in a horse in the competition
- h) they are an employee or employer of a competitor in the competition
- i) when accepting judging invitations, a judge must declare a conflict of interest in any person or horse who has entered if, within 12 months immediately preceding the event, they have:
  - trained
  - owned/part owned
  - or had any other business interest in that horse and/or rider
- j) Judge Educators/Mentors must also follow these principles when carrying out shadow judging/sit-in

## SECTION 2 PACES AND MOVEMENTS

This section details the paces and movements required in dressage and are taken from the FEI Rules for Dressage Events. Please refer to the *FEI Dressage Handbook Guidelines for Judging* for further assistance for judges and riders.

**The Training Scale** is a German-based training system. It the most important guideline for trainers and riders for developing correctly trained dressage horses. It consists of 6 parts, or building blocks, that must be taken in conjunction with each other. The 6 parts are outlined below:



### 1. **Rhythm** (*Takt*)

This refers to the regularity, which is the correct sequence and timing of the footfalls.

### 2. **Suppleness** (*Losgelassenheit*)

Suppleness and relaxation. The complete absence of tension and is an essential aim of the preliminary training phase. Relaxation is meant in both the mental and physical sense.

### 3. **Contact** (*Anlehnung*)

Contact is a soft, steady, connection between the rider's hands and horse's mouth. The horse should go rhythmically forward from the rider's driving aids and 'seek' a contact with the rider's hands.

### 4. **Impulsion** (*Schwung*)

This term is used to describe the transmission of energy from the hindquarters being transmitted into the athletic movement of the horse.

### 5. **Straightness**

A horse is said to be straight when its forehead is in line with its hindquarters; that is, when its longitudinal axis is in line with the straight or curved track it is following.

### 6. **Collection**

To enable a horse to be collected correctly, all the former criteria must be fulfilled. The aim of collection is to improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, and to develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage the quarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of the forehead. If the carrying capacity of the hindquarters is sufficiently developed, the horse is then in a position to move in balance and self-carriage in all three paces.

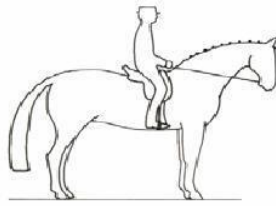
## 2.1 Objects and general principles

The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with its rider. These qualities are demonstrated by:

- the freedom and regularity of the paces
  - the harmony, lightness and ease of the movements
  - the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion
  - the acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance
- 
- a) the horse thus gives the impression of doing of its own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines
  - b) the walk is regular, free and unconstrained
  - c) the trot is regular, free, supple and active
  - d) the canter is united, light and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. They respond to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby give life and spirit to all the rest of its body
  - e) by virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralysing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally
  - f) in all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be 'on the bit'. A horse is said to be 'on the bit' when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent, soft, submissive contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider
  - g) cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these paces
  - h) the regularity of the paces is fundamental to dressage

## 2.2 The halt

- a) at the halt, the horse should stand attentive, engaged motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised, the poll as the highest point and the nose line slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining 'on the bit' and maintaining a light and soft contact with the rider's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the rider
- b) the halt must be shown for at least 3 seconds
- c) the halt should be shown throughout the salute
- d) the halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse towards a softly closed hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place. The halt is prepared by a series of half halts
- e) the quality of the paces before and after the halt is an integral part of the assessment



The Halt

## 2.3 The walk

- a) the walk is a marching pace in a regular 4-time beat (left hind, left fore, right hind, right fore) with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements
- b) when the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace
- c) the following walks are recognised: Collected, Medium, Extended and Free
- d) there should always be a clear difference in the attitude and over-tracking in these variations
- e) a 'step' in walk constitutes one step by a foreleg

### 2.3.1 Medium walk

Medium walk is a clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining 'on the bit', walks energetically but relaxed, with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The rider maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the head and neck.

### 2.3.2 Collected walk

In the collected walk, the horse, remains 'on the bit', moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

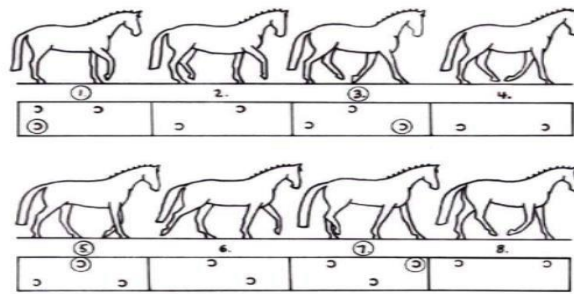
### 2.3.3 Extended walk

In the extended walk, the horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the fore feet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.



### 2.3.4 Free walk on a long rein

The walk is a pace in 4-beat rhythm with 8 phases - (numbers in circles indicate the beat)



The free walk on a long rein is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is permitted enough freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck while the rider maintains a light contact through the rein.

### 2.3.5 Stretching on a long rein

In order to execute the exercise 'stretching on a long rein' correctly:

- the rider allows the horse to take the reins gradually and smoothly as the horse stretches his neck forward and downward
- the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- a light, elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained
- the horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and with losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the foot prints of the forefeet
- during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the jaw, mouth or poll

## 2.4 The trot

- the trot is a 2-beat pace of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg together and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension
- the trot should show free, active and regular steps
- the quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in both collection and extension. This quality originates from a supple back and well-engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance within all variations of trot
- all trot-work is executed 'sitting', unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned
- the following trots are recognised: Working, Lengthening of Steps, Collected, Medium and Extended

### 2.4.1 Working trot

The working trot is a pace between collected and medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse, showing proper balance and remaining 'on the bit', goes forward with even elastic steps and good hock action with the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the front feet. The expression 'good hock action' underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

### 2.4.2 Collected trot

The horse, while remaining 'on the bit', moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. The horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, but elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

### 2.4.3 Medium trot

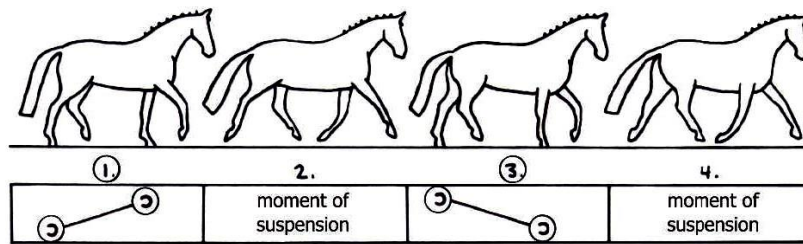
The medium trot is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to extended trot, but 'rounder' than the latter. Without hurrying the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

### 2.4.4 Extended trot

In the extended trot, the horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying the steps are lengthened to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll, and to gain ground. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should reach equally forward in the moment of the extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

### 2.4.5 Lengthening of steps

In the national (EA) tests for Preliminary and Novice and the test for 4-year-old horses, 'lengthening of steps' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot.



**The trot is a pace in 2-beat rhythm with 4 phases - (Numbers in circles indicate the beat.)**

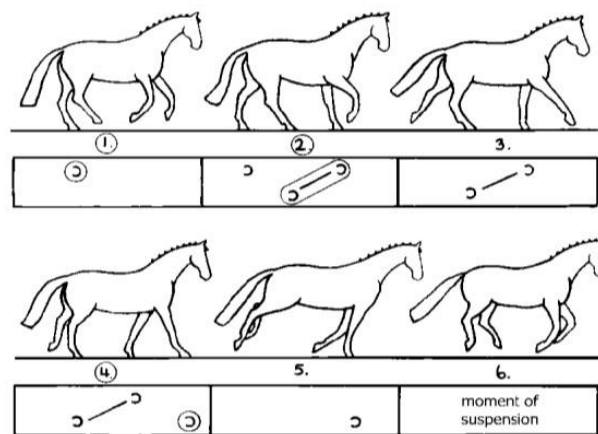
### 2.4.6 Stretching on a long rein

- the 'stretching on a long rein' exercise gives a clear impression of the 'throughness' of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation. In order to execute the exercise 'stretching on a long rein' correctly, the rider must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward
- as the neck stretches forward and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- an elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained
- the pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hind legs well engaged
- during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll

## 2.5 The canter

- a) the canter is a 3-beat pace where, in canter to the right, the footfalls are as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins
- b) the canter should be moved into without hesitation, and always with light, cadenced and regular strides
- c) the quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action – and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines
- d) the following canters are recognised: Working, Lengthened Strides, Collected, Medium, Extended and including Counter Canter, Simple Change of Leg and Flying Change of Leg.

**The canter is a pace in 3-beat rhythm with 6 phases - (Numbers in circles indicate the beat.)**



### 2.5.1 Working canter

The working canter is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while, remaining 'on the bit', and goes forward with even, light and active strides and good hock action. The expression 'good hock action' underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

### 2.5.2 Collected canter

In the collected canter the horse, remaining 'on the bit', moves forward with its neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility thus demonstrating complete self-carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other canters, without losing elasticity and cadence.

### 2.5.3 Medium canter

The medium canter is a pace between working and extended canter. Without hurrying the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than in the collected and working canter and at the same time allows him to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.

#### **2.5.4 Extended canter**

In the extended canter the horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the strides are lengthened to the utmost. The horse remains calm, light and straight as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll and to gain ground. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transitions to collected canter should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

#### **2.5.5 Lengthening of strides**

In the national (EA) Novice tests and the test for 4-year-olds, 'lengthening of strides' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.

#### **2.5.6 Counter-canter**

The counter-canter is a balancing and straightening movement that must be executed in collection. The horse canters in correct sequence with the outside foreleg leading with positioning to the side of the leading leg. The foreleg should be aligned to the same track as the hind leg.

#### **2.5.7 Simple change of leg at the canter**

Simple change of leg at the canter is a movement which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with 3 to 5 clearly defined walk steps, a transition is made into the other canter lead.

#### **2.5.8 Flying change of leg**

- a) the flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front leg and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The aids should be precise and unobtrusive
- b) the aim of the flying changes is to show the reaction, sensitivity and obedience of the horse to the aids for the change of leg
- c) flying changes of leg can also be executed in series, for instance at every 4th, 3rd, 2nd or at every stride
- d) the horse, even in the series of changes, remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness and fluency and groundcover of the flying changes of leg in series, enough impulsion must be maintained

#### **2.5.9 Give and retake the reins in canter**

Giving and retaking the reins is a test of self-carriage and whether or not the contact is correct.

In order to execute the exercise correctly, the rider moves his hands forward along the neck for the number of strides specified in the test, giving up the contact with the horse's mouth. The horse maintains the same position of head and neck throughout the exercise.

#### **2.6 The rein back**

- a) the rein back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension
- b) each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs
- c) during the entire exercise, the horse, should remain 'on the bit', maintaining its desire to move forward.
- d) anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults
- e) the steps are counted as each foreleg moves back

- f) after completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square halt, or move forward in the required pace immediately
- g) in tests where a rein back of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with 3 or 4 steps
- h) a rein back series (*Schaukel* or see-saw) is a combination of two rein backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps

## 2.7 The transitions

The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be exactly performed at the prescribed marker. The cadence (except in walk) should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts. Transitions within the pace must be clearly defined whilst maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from the passage to the piaffe and vice-versa.

## 2.8 The half-halts

Every movement or transition should be invisibly prepared by barely perceptible half-halts. The half-halt is an almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hand of the rider, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of the movements or transitions to lower and higher paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's hindquarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are improved for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

## 2.9 Changes of directions

In changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of its body to the curvature of the line it follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the rider, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed. Changes of direction can be executed in the following ways:

- a) right angle turns including riding through the corner (one quarter of a volte of approx 6 m diameter)
- b) short and long diagonal
- c) half-voltes and half-circles, with changes of rein
- d) half-pirouettes and turn on the haunches
- e) serpentine loops
- f) counter changes of hand in zigzag\* where the horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.

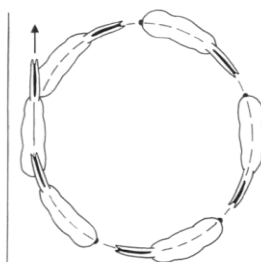
\* Zigzag: a movement containing more than two half-passes with changes of direction. See rule 2.12.5

## 2.10 Figures

The figures asked in dressage tests are the voltes, serpentines and the figures of eight.

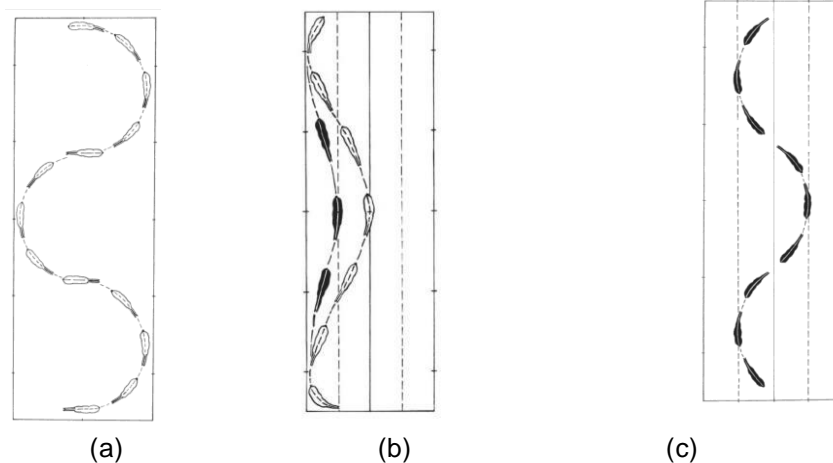
### 2.10.1 Volte

The Volte is a circle of 6, 8 or 10 metres diameter. If larger than 10 metres it is a circle.



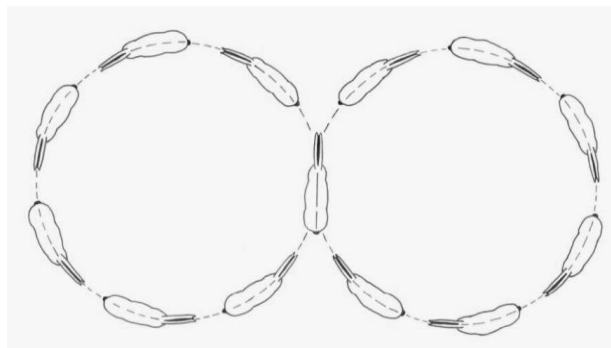
### 2.10.2 Serpentine

The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half-circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centre line the horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half-circles, the straight connection varies in length. Serpentine with one loop on the long side of the arena are executed with a 5 m or 10 m distance from the track (b). Serpentine around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c).



### 2.10.3 Figure of eight

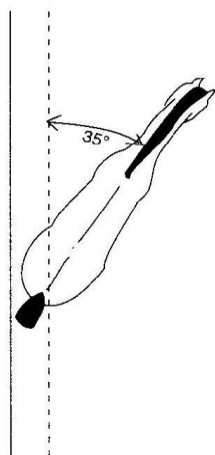
This figure consists of two voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The rider should make the horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



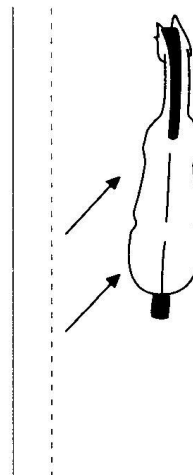
### 2.11 Leg-yielding

- the aim of leg-yielding is to demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse
- the exercise is performed in working trot
- the horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside
- the inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs
- leg-yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work
- Later on, together with the more advanced shoulder-in movement, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of its paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of its movements

- g) leg-yielding can be performed 'on the diagonal', in which case the horse should be as nearly as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. It can also be performed 'along the wall', in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which they are moving



**Leg yielding along the wall**



**Leg yielding on the diagonal**

## **2.12 The lateral movements**

- the main aim of lateral movements (except leg-yielding) is to develop and increase the engagement of the hindquarters and thereby also the collection
- in all lateral movements (i.e. shoulder-in, travers, renvers, half-pass) the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the quarters on different tracks
- the bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the rhythm, the balance and fluency of the movement
- in the lateral movements, the pace should remain free and regular, maintaining a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost because of the rider's preoccupation with bending the horse and pushing it sideways

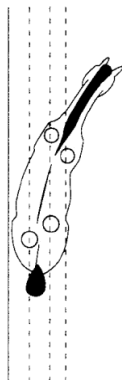
### **2.12.1 Shoulder-in**

The shoulder-in exercise is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider, maintaining engagement and cadence at a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside fore leg, with the lowering of the inside hip. The horse is bent away from the direction from which it is moving (see Illustration 1).

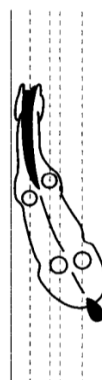
### **2.12.2 Travers**

- the aim of the travers is to show a fluent collected trot movement on a straight line and a correct bend. Front and hind legs are crossing, balance and cadence are maintained
- this exercise can be performed in collected trot or collected canter
- the horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider but with a greater degree of bend than the shoulder-in
- a constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown (from the front and from behind one sees 4 tracks)
- the forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards
- the horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction of movement

- g) to start the travers, the quarters must leave the track or, after a corner or circle, are not brought back onto the track
- h) at the end of the travers, the quarters are brought back on the track (without any counter-flexion of the poll/neck) as one would finish a circle (see illustration 2)



**Shoulder in** (illustration 1)



**Travers** (illustration 2)

### 2.12.3 Renvers

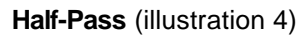
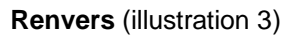
- a) the aim of renvers is to show a fluent, collected trot movement on a straight line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. The fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained
- b) in the renvers the hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward.
- c) this is the inverse movement in relation to travers
- d) to finish the renvers the forehand is aligned with the quarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to travers are applicable as at renvers (see illustration 3)
- e) the horse is slightly bent around the leg of the rider
- f) the horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs
- g) the horse is bent in the direction in whilst it is moving (see illustration 3)

### 2.12.4 Half-pass

The half-pass is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. It can be performed in collected trot or collected canter.

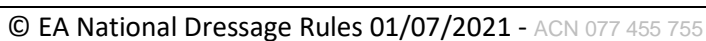
- a) the aim of half-pass in *trot* is to show a fluent, collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in
- b) in the half-pass the fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained
- c) the aim of half-pass in *canter* is to both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness of the canter by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and submission to the bend
- d) the horse should be slightly bent in the direction in which it is moving and bent around the inside leg of the rider
- e) the horse should maintain the same cadence throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion is maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg
- f) in the half-pass the horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters (see illustration 4)





This is a change of direction within half pass whether in trot or canter

- In the Grand Prix, the zig zag in canter is 5 half passes either side of centre line which is 4 counter changes of hand.



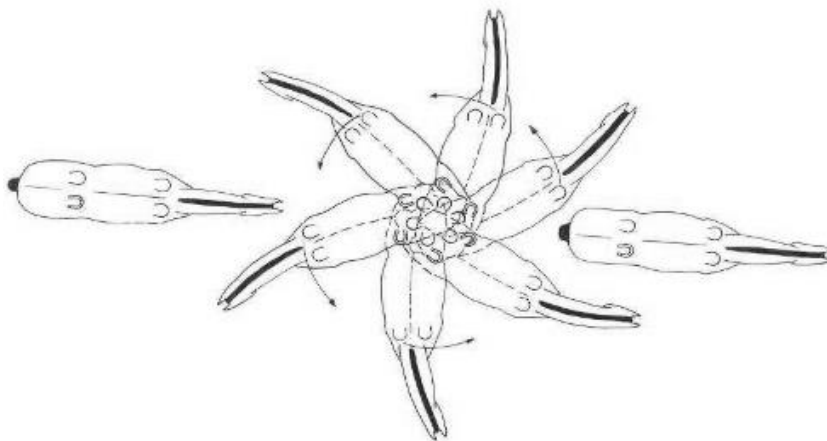
## 2.13 The pirouette, the half-pirouette and turn on the haunches

### 2.13.1 Pirouette/Half-pirouette

The aim of the pirouette and half-pirouette in canter is to demonstrate the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg on a small radius, slightly bent in the direction of the turn while maintaining the activity and the clarity of the canter, the straightness and the balance before and after the figure, and clear canter strides during the turn. In the pirouette or half-pirouette in canter, the judges should be able to recognise a real canter stride although the feet of the diagonal – inside hind leg, outside front leg – are not touching the ground simultaneously.

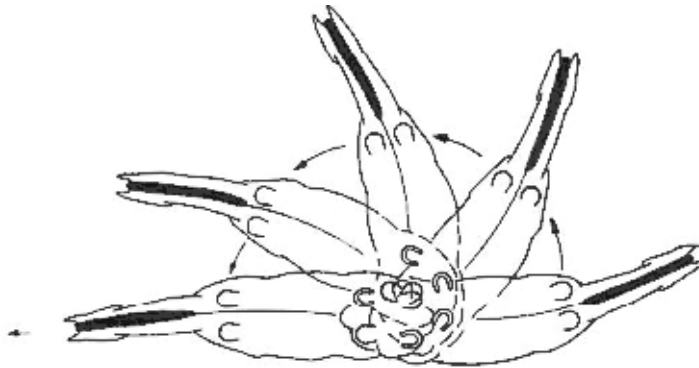
- a) the pirouette is a turn of 360 degrees/180 degrees executed on 2 tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving round the haunches
- b) pirouettes/half-pirouettes are usually carried out at collected walk or canter but can also be executed at piaffe
- c) in the pirouette/half-pirouette the fore feet and outside hind foot move round the inside hind foot. The inside hind leg describes a circle as small as possible
- d) at whatever pace the pirouette/half-pirouette is executed, the horse is slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning, remaining 'on the bit' with a light contact, turning smoothly around, maintaining sequence and timing of footfalls of that pace. The poll stays the highest point during the entire movement
- e) during pirouettes/half-pirouettes the horse should maintain its activity (walk also included) and never move backwards or sideways
- f) in executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The hindquarters are well engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints. An integral part of the movement is the canter strides before and after the pirouette. The strides should show an increased activity and collection before the pirouette and the balance being maintained at the end of the pirouette
- g) the quality of pirouettes/half-pirouettes is judged according to the suppleness, lightness, cadence and regularity, and the precision and smoothness of the entrance and exit
- h) pirouettes/half-pirouettes at canter should be executed in 6 to 8 strides (full pirouette) and 3 to 4 strides (half-pirouette)

**A full pirouette** (illustration 5)



#### 2.13.2 Half-pirouette in walk (180 degrees)

The half-pirouettes in walk (180 degrees) are executed out of collected walk with the collection being maintained throughout the exercise. When the horse exits the half-pirouette it returns to the initial track without crossing the hind legs.



**A half pirouette** (illustration 6)

#### 2.13.3 Turn on the haunches from walk (180 degrees)

For younger horses that are still not able to show collected walk, the 'turn on the haunches' is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The 'turn on the haunches' is executed out of medium walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The horse does not halt before or after the turn. The 'turn on the haunches' can be executed on a larger radius (approx. 0.5 m) than the pirouette in walk, but the demands of the concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same.

#### 2.13.4 Turn on the haunches from halt to halt (180 degrees)

To maintain the forward tendency of the movement, 1 or 2 forward steps at the beginning of the turn are permitted. The same criteria apply as for the turn on the haunches from walk.

### 2.14 The passage

The passage is a measured, very collected, elevated and cadenced trot. The aim of passage is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection, cadence and suppleness in the trot.

- the passage is characterised by a pronounced engagement of the hindquarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension
- in principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg
- the neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the nose line close to the vertical. The horse should remain light, and soft 'on the bit' without altering the cadence. The impulsion remains lively and pronounced
- Irregular steps with the hind or front legs, swinging the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other as well as jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs or dragging the hind legs or double beat in the moment of suspension are serious faults

## 2.15 The piaffe

The piaffe is a highly collected, cadenced, elevated diagonal movement giving the impression of remaining in place. The aim of piaffe is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection while giving the impression of remaining in place.

- a) in the piaffe the horse's back is supple and elastic. The hindquarters are lowered; the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with spring and an even cadence
- b) in principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg
- c) the neck should be raised and gracefully arched, with the poll as the highest point. The horse should remain 'on the bit' with a supple poll, maintaining a contact. The body of the horse should move in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement
- d) piaffe must always be animated by a lively impulsion and characterised by perfect balance. While giving the impression of remaining in place there may be a visible inclination to advance, this being displayed by the horse's eager acceptance to move forward as soon as it is asked
- e) moving even slightly backwards, irregular or jerky steps with the hind or front legs, no clear diagonal steps, crossing either the fore or hind legs or swinging either the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, getting wide behind or in front, moving too much forward or double-beat rhythm are all serious faults.

## 2.16 Impulsion

- a) impulsion is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft and swinging back guided by a gentle contact with the rider's hand
- b) speed, of itself, has little to do with impulsion; the result is more often a flattening of the paces. A visible characteristic is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should first move forward rather than being pulled upwards, but certainly not backwards
- c) a prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those paces that have a period of suspension
- d) impulsion is a precondition for a good collection in trot and canter
- e) if there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect

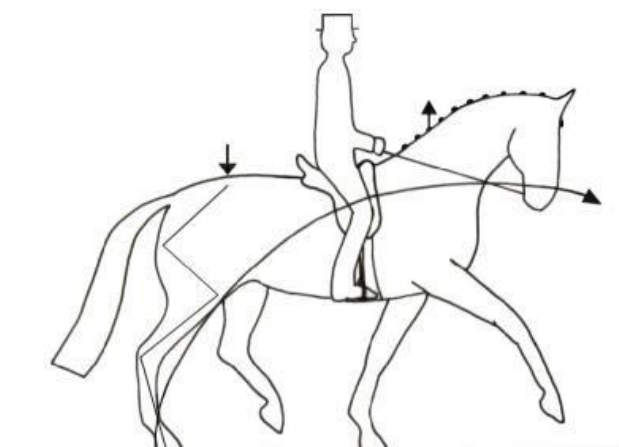
### 2.16.1 Submission

- a) fulfilling successfully the main requirements/movements of a dressage test is the main criterion for submission
- b) submission does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its **presence** by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behaviour of the horse, as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease that is displayed in the execution of the different movements
- c) the degree of submission is also demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit with light and soft contact and a supple poll. Resistance to, or evasion of, the rider's hand by being either 'above the bit' or 'behind the bit' demonstrates lack of submission. The main contact with the horse's mouth must be through the snaffle bit
- d) putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail, are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movement concerned, as well as the collective mark for 'submission'

- e) the guiding thought for judges when considering submission is willingness; the horse understands what is being asked of it and is confident enough in the rider to react to the aids without fear or tension
- f) the horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the rider's legs and go forward into an accepting and self-carrying contact with the bit. This is what really produces the picture of harmony and lightness

## 2.17 The collection

- a) the aim of the collection is to:
  - further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the rider
  - develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage its hindquarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of its forehand
  - add to the 'ease and carriage' of the horse and to make it more pleasurable to ride
- b) collection is characterised by the 'ease and carriage' of the horse, as well as a lively impulsion, originating from the activity of the hindquarters
- c) collection is developed through the use of half halts and the use of the lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers and half-pass
- d) collection is improved and achieved by the use the seat and legs and containing hands to engage the hind legs. The joints bend and are supple so that the hind legs can step forward under the horse's body
- e) however, the hind legs should not be engaged so far forward under the horse that they shorten the base of support excessively, thereby impeding the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and raised too much in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be impaired and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance
- f) on the other hand, a horse with an over-long base of support, which is unable or unwilling to engage its hind legs forward under its body, will never achieve acceptable collection
- g) the position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, to some degree, on its conformation. It is distinguished by the neck being raised without restraint, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, with the poll being the highest point, and the nose slightly in front of the vertical
- h) at the moment the rider applies his aids to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical
- i) the arch of the neck is directly related to the degree of collection



**Illustration of collection**

## **2.18 The position and aids of the rider**

- a) all the movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the centre of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with their loins and hips, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple. The contact should be independent from the rider's seat. The hands should be carried steadily close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely
- b) the effectiveness of the rider's aids determine the precise fulfilment of the required movements of the tests
- c) there shall always be the impression of harmonious cooperation between horse and rider.
- d) riding with both hands is obligatory in tests. Apart from the halt and salute, where the rider must take the reins in one hand, a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of a rider needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc)
- e) however, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a serious fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for 'Rider'
- f) riding with reins in one hand is permitted, however, in the Freestyle tests
- g) when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein after having finished the test, the rider may, at their own discretion, ride with only one hand

### **2.18.1 Use of voice**

The use of the voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly as an aid is a serious fault, which will incur a penalty as per 3.16

## **SECTION 3 DRESSAGE EVENTS**

### **3.1 Approval of Official events**

Application for permission to hold an Official dressage event or competition, including any Competitive and/or Participation dressage event, must be made in writing to the EA State Branch or SDA.

### **3.2 Competitions**

In regards to holding Official competitions:

- a) only the current Official EA tests may be used
- b) only current accredited judges are eligible to officiate at Competitive and Participation competitions
- c) there is to be a maximum of 35 horses per competition

### **3.3 Statement of liability**

The following disclaimer must be printed on entry forms, schedules and programs:

'Neither the Organising Committee of any competition to which these rules apply, or the EA, accepts any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, grounds, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.'

### **3.4 Timing of the draw**

- a) it is strongly recommended to allow 60 to 90 minutes between tests for the same horse, and at least 90 minutes at the FEI levels as these are more strenuous tests
- b) where a rider has more than one horse in a competition, 90 minutes should be timetabled between rides to allow rider to go from one horse to the other, however riders may opt for less on the day of event

### **3.5 Conducting same test for different categories**

When organising the range of tests to be offered:

- a) if the same test is offered for more than one category, as for example in Competitive and Participation competitions, or horse and pony competitions, each entire competition must be judged separately
- b) each category may be conducted consecutively

### **3.6 Arena requirements**

Arenas should be set out to the dimensions shown in the diagram in Annex A. The arena(s):

- a) should be level and separated from the public (including photographers and video operators) by a distance all round of 15 metres if possible but at least 10 metres
- b) must consist of a low continuous fence about 0.3 metres high
- c) are to be placed at least 10 metres apart, preferably 15 metres if room permits
- d) should be positioned where judges are not facing the sun
- e) the letters placed around the arena should be clearly visible and be placed approximately 0.5 metres outside the arena fence
- f) the centre line must have the letter A placed in line (not offset) with C at least 10 metres (preferably 15 metres) back from the arena to allow horses a straight track to enter the arena. The width of the entrance must be at least 2 metres and not greater than 4 metres

The following are **not permitted** in the construction of an arena:

- g) stakes which are driven into the ground
- h) unbreakable rope
- i) unbreakable chain
- j) unbreakable tape
- k) line marking or rope on the ground
- l) thin poles on the ground (e.g. jumping rails)

### 3.7 Entering the arena (See Annex D *Arena Familiarisation*)

Riders and event organisers must be aware of the following:

- a) when presenting to the judge before a test, riders do not have to stop and report to the judge but must make sure the judge has clearly seen their Horse Identification Number
- b) for competitions where it is not practical or safe to ride around the outside of the arena prior to entering, the rider is permitted to enter the arena as soon as the previous rider has exited and before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded the new rider starts the test from within the arena
- c) under special circumstances and conditions, the OC may also permit riders to ride within an outdoor arena
- d) for outdoor competitions, if the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, then the Chief Judge, in consultation with the OC, will make a decision as to whether it is permitted to allow the competitors to enter the arena and complete one lap each way prior to commencing their test. Such a decision **must** be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition. Once the bell has been rung the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once the rider is on the centre line
- e) after the bell has sounded, the competitor must enter the arena at A as soon as possible
- f) failure to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounding will entail a penalty of 2 points per judge. Should a rider continue and not enter within a further 45 seconds they will be eliminated
- g) entering the arena at A before the bell signal has been given may entail a penalty of 2 points per judge
- h) judging commences with the rider's entry at A
- i) judging is not influenced by any actions of the competitor prior to their entrance at A
- j) at the first halt and final halt competitors must take the reins in one hand to salute. Failure to salute will entail a 2 point penalty from each judge
- k) a whip may be held in either hand at the salute
- l) judging ceases when the horse moves forward from the final salute
- m) after the final salute the competitor should leave the arena in walk on a long rein at A
- n) the competitor must be mounted on leaving the arena at A
- o) if the entry at A is open for the first horse of a competition then it must remain open for the rest of the competition

### 3.8 Dismounting/Fall during test

In regards to dismounting or falling during a test:

- a) riders must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena on penalty of elimination. Refer to 3.8e for an exception for a fall after the final salute
- b) if a rider dismounts after entering the arena without a reason acceptable to the judge, no marks will be given to the movement. A dropped whip, hat, spectacles, etc, may be handed to a rider. However, in the case of a dropped whip it is preferable this is done at the end of the test when the rider has left the arena
- c) any fall of the horse and/or rider between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute, will entail elimination from that test, and the rider may not remount to leave the arena
- d) if a rider dismounts after the final halt and salute without a reason acceptable to the judge this will entail elimination
- e) if there is a fall of horse and/or rider after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination and the rider may not remount to leave the arena



- f) before the horse and rider may continue at the event, the Chief Judge or representative of the OC
  - must send the rider to the designated first aid official for assessment of injury. Refer to rule 3.23 and the EA Concussion Policy
  - may send the horse to be assessed for injury by a vet or horse welfare officer

### **3.9 Test time**

With the exception of Freestyles, dressage tests are not timed. The times printed on the test sheets are to be used only as a guide.

### **3.10 Resistance/Disobedience**

In regards to a horse showing resistance or disobedience the following will apply:

- a) any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for a period exceeding 20 seconds shall be penalised by elimination. This also applies to any resistance before entering the dressage arena and within the arena surrounds. However, resistance that may endanger rider, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons earlier than 20 seconds. There is no appeal against this decision
- b) a horse leaving the arena with all four feet during a test between the beginning and the end of the test will be eliminated (except in 4-year-old Young Horse competitions at State qualifying events where there is minus 2 points per judge, see rule 9.1)
- c) should a horse leave the arena with all four feet after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination

### **3.11 Unauthorised assistance**

Any intentional outside intervention is considered assistance to a rider or horse and is penalised by elimination. This includes but is not limited to:

- a) assistance by voice, signs, etc
- b) where background music is provided by organisers riders are not permitted to request specific music, or music at specific times
- c) any assistance to get the horse into the dressage arena or the area directly around the arena including being led by another horse around the arena
- d) mounted riders may have their horse attached to a lead line when at walk when proceeding to or from the warm up area or competition area but not in or around the competition arena. This will be considered outside assistance and will entail elimination
- e) not applicable for riders with exemption cards. Refer to rule 5.18

### **3.12 Movement and access of horses at competition grounds**

#### **3.12.1 Access to competition grounds**

Horses that are not entered in the event are permitted on the grounds at the discretion of the OC.

#### **3.12.2 Riding in competition, warm-up and exercise areas – refer to Annex D**

- a) access to arenas for the purpose of familiarisation is recommended. Access to competition arenas is at the discretion of the Chief Judge for the competition or the OC. Riding in or entering the competition arena without permission will entail elimination
- b) the above rule applies also when competition arena(s) are erected on the day(s) preceding an event
- c) where an arena is a permanent fixture this rule applies from the time the OC has deemed it to be a competition arena and this time should be publicly advertised
- d) from twenty-four hours prior to the event starting, a horse may be ridden only by its nominated rider on the competition grounds. However, a groom may walk the horse on a long rein only. Grooms when riding must wear approved footwear (smooth sole with heel) and approved safety helmet with chin strap done up

- e) all competitors are to be given equal warm-up time around the competition arena. Therefore, riders are not to enter the area around the competition arena until their start time
- f) only horses entered in the event are permitted to use the warm-up area
- g) any horse on the grounds that is not entered in the event is not permitted in the warm-up area (either ridden or led) until after the completion of competitions for that day
- h) riders may not be led when mounted in the warmup area. Horses can be led into and out of the warmup arena but once in the warmup arena the groom is to take the horse off the lead line
- i) a maximum duration of pre-competition warm-up or training of one hour is the standard; riders require permission from the Chief Steward (which will be granted only in exceptional circumstances) to extend a training session beyond one hour. The warm-up or training session must include relaxation periods, they do not include walking on a loose rein, to or from stables, or for exercise prior to or post warmup. Riders are also reminded that post-test repetition of movements may not exceed 10 minutes

**NOTE:** Chief Steward in consultation with OC may reduce maximum duration due to welfare of horse e.g., extreme weather conditions.

### 3.12.3 Lunging in warm up and exercise areas:

Wherever possible a designated area should be set aside for lunging. Non-compliance with lunging in a designated area or with non-permitted equipment will entail elimination. Ideally organizing committees should provide a clearly marked and designated lunging area, preferably enclosed so there is no risk of an escaping horse.

- a) lunging by someone other than the nominated rider is permitted
- b) work in-hand by someone other than the nominated rider is not permitted
- c) wherever possible a designated area should be set aside for lunging
- d) non-compliance with lunging in a designated area may entail elimination
- e) the lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event

Also see 5.13 Lunging equipment

### 3.13 Scale of marks

Under both EA and FEI rules, the scale of marks is as follows:

10 – excellent	5 – <b>marginal (EA)</b> (sufficient – FEI)
9 – very good	4 – insufficient
8 – good	3 – fairly bad
7 – fairly good	2 – bad
6 – satisfactory	1 – very bad
0 – not executed (means practically nothing was performed)	

- a) all half marks from 0.5 to 9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge – this also includes freestyle competitions
- b) whole marks should be written as 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, etc
- c) in freestyle tests 0.1 decimals may be used for the artistic marks

### 3.14 Called tests

In regards to a test being called:

- a) tests may **not** be called
  - at any level above Advanced at any event
  - in any competition where the Conditions of Entry excludes it
  - at any FEI-sanctioned competition (e.g. CDI-W)
- b) where callers are permitted, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text, or extracts thereof, is read out and that no other form of assistance is given
- c) the caller may read each movement *once or twice only*. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination

### 3.15 Execution of tests

All movements contained in tests must be:

- a) executed in the order laid down by the test sheet
- b) carried out at a specified point of the arena

In a movement that must be carried out at a certain point or letter of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point or letter. In transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point on track where the letters are positioned, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.

#### 3.15.1 Holding the reins

Riding with the reins in both hands is compulsory in all Dressage competitions – deduction from marks -2 per judge. The exceptions to this rule are:

- a) leaving the arena after the final salute
- b) during a Freestyle test as part of the degree of difficulty
- c) a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of a rider needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc)

If the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark.

In the competition arena, under no circumstances is a rider to take the reins in one hand, whip in the other and use it on the horse – such action will entail elimination.

### 3.16 Use of voice

The use of the voice or clicking the tongue as an aid by the rider repeatedly is a serious fault, which will be penalised by the judge/s who hear it with a deduction of 2 marks from the mark that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement.

**NOTE:** The use of voice is permitted in some cases in Para-Equestrian Dressage as an aid. See rule 11.7 for more details.

### 3.17 Penalties and Errors of Course

A penalty is minus 2 marks from each judge for a range of instances as per Annex E. All judges must have the same number of penalties recorded.

Error of Course, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised and is cumulative. The penalties for an error of course are as follows:

#### EA level tests (up to Advanced)

- the first by - 2 marks
- the second by - 4 additional marks
- the third by elimination

#### FEI level tests

Senior, U25 and Young Rider

- first error - -2% from total score
- second error – elimination

### Young Horse, FEI Children, Pony and Junior and Para

- first error – 0.5% from total score
  - second error - 1% from total score
  - third error elimination
- a) if the bell is not sounded when an error of course is made, and the test requires the same movement to be repeated and the error is made again, the rider is only penalised once. The Chief Judge must be aware of the effect of one movement on the next and where mirror images occur, in order to be prompt in notifying the competitor
- b) if eliminated, if time permits and the type of event or competition is appropriate, the Chief Judge may invite the rider to continue the test to the end with the marks being awarded in the ordinary way. In such a case it is not necessary for the collective marks to be completed
- c) the use of the rider's voice, referred to in rule 3.16, is not an Error of Course
- d) it is not always necessary for a judge to ring the bell for an error of course. Below are instances that will and will not require the sounding of the bell. However, not all cases can be quoted and it is the Chief Judge who will decide to sound the bell. In deciding not to ring the bell the judge must consider the effect this will have on the rest of the test

<b>The Chief Judge WILL ring the bell:</b>	<b>The Chief Judge need NOT ring the bell:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• when the rider enters the arena at the incorrect gait</li><li>• when the rider turns right instead of left or vice versa</li><li>• when the rider omits a movement</li><li>• when a movement is the first of a mirror image and the competitor rides rising trot instead of sitting trot and vice versa and/or an incorrect circle size</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa</li><li>• When the reins are not taken in one hand at the salute</li><li>• when the rider makes a transition not clearly at the marker</li><li>• cantering up the centre line from A, the rider makes a pirouette at D instead of at L</li><li>• the rider does rising trot instead of sitting trot or vice versa in a non-mirrored movement</li></ul>

- e) if the Chief Judge does ring the bell, they should show the rider the point at which they are to re-take the test, which could be a movement prior to where the error occurred. Judging will re-commence when the rider reaches the point where the error of course occurred
- f) in principle, a rider is not permitted to repeat a movement of the test unless the Chief Judge decides on it being an error of course (rings the bell)
- g) however, if the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judges must consider only the first movement shown and at the same time penalise for an Error of Course
- h) each judge must have the same number of errors marked on their sheets with a notation explaining where the error was made. The Chief Judge must make the final decision as to the number of errors if there is a discrepancy
- i) if the judges have not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt

**NOTE**– Errors of course are to be deducted from the total score from the test sheet of each judge

#### 3.17.1 Other errors with penalties – refer to Annex E

All of the following are considered errors, and 2 penalty points will be deducted for each one, but they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including for Freestyle tests):

- a) a rider entering the space around the arena with whip (where not permitted) or riding in a dressage arena with a whip (when not permitted) or with boots on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves). See rule 10.6 for whip penalties at FEI events and Australian and State Championships

- b) if the test has already started before the above discrepancies have been noticed, the Judge at C stops the rider and, if needed and where possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The rider then continues the test, either starting from the beginning (from the inside of the fence) or from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed
- c) a rider entering the arena before the sound of the bell
- d) a rider not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the bell
- e) a rider not saluting at either the first or last halt
- f) a rider not taking reins in one hand at the salute
- g) in Freestyle tests, a rider not giving the signal to start music within 45 seconds, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music
- h) if the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet 0.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score

### 3.18 Lameness

In the instance of lameness displayed by the horse riders and judges please note:

- a) in the case of marked lameness, the Judge at C informs the competitor that they are eliminated
- b) there is no appeal against this decision
- c) a horse that has been eliminated in a competition for lameness cannot compete in any further tests on the day unless it has been deemed fit to compete (in writing) after an examination by a veterinarian approved by the OC. A copy of the examination report is to be delivered to the OC

### 3.19 Awards and placings

Awards are made to place getters, irrespective of percentage received. The following is a guide:

- a) up to 5 starters, ribbons to 3rd place
- b) up to 15 starters, ribbons to 5th place
- c) more than 15 starters, ribbons to 8th place
- d) in case of equality of percentage for any of the first three places, the higher total of the collective mark/s, including coefficients, will decide on the placings.
- e) should there still be a tie, the rider score will be the final decider
- f) when there is equality of places from fourth place and below, the competitors are joint equal place getters

In the following cases, places will be determined as follows:

- g) in the case of equality of marks for first place in a Freestyle test, the combination with the higher mark, including coefficients for artistic presentation, will be the winner. If there is still equality, then they are equal winners
- h) for the purpose of a one-off trophy or point-score award, if a clear winner is required, one of the following criteria should be decided upon and included in the Conditions of Entry:
  - total the collective marks of each tied competitor. The one with the highest total collective marks is the winner
  - if two tests are involved, the award should be to the competitor with the highest score in the highest test involved

For the purpose of deciding a Champion at a level, if a clear winner is required the following criteria will decide the winner:

- i) first placed horses will be allocated 35 points
- j) second placed will be allocated 34 points
- k) third placed will be allocated 33 points and so on to the last placed horse
- l) competitors must compete in both tests at level to be eligible for champion points
- m) the Champion is the horse with the highest combined points of the two tests
- n) in the event of a tie, the Champion will be the horse with the highest aggregate percentage at that level

- o) in the event of a further tie, the horse with the highest percentage in the higher competition at that level will be deemed the Champion.

### 3.20 Prize money

In regards to the offer and payment of prize money in competitions:

- a) all prize money and prizes are made to the owner/s of the horse/pony
- b) in the following Official events, if an entry fee is charged, then prize money or goods in kind must be given to at least the first three placings and the value of the last prize must not be less than the entry fee:
  - Australian Championships
  - State Championships
  - Regional Championships
- c) at all other events the payment and amount of prize to be paid is at the discretion of the OC and:
  - the details regarding number of prizes is at the discretion of the OC
  - the payment of prize money to horses and ponies may be different
  - OCs that intend paying prize money should make this intention known in the schedule
- d) prize money must be awarded according to the schedule

### 3.21 Number/Level of judges required for Official Competitive and Official Participation Competitions

#### 3.21.1 Number /Level of judges required for Official Competitive competitions

The EADC strongly recommends that a minimum of 2 appropriately qualified judges officiate at every Official Competitive competition. **NOTE:** For Australian Dressage Championships and some other qualifications, competitors must submit 3 scores from competitions with at least 2 judges officiating.

For levels Advanced and below, if the minimum recommended 2 judges cannot be procured it is permitted that:

- a) one A level judge may judge up to Advanced level
- b) one B level judge may judge up to Medium level
- c) one C level judge may judge up to Elementary level
- d) one D level judge may judge up to Novice level
- e) one E or F level judge may judge up to Prelim level
- f) a G level judge may judge Official competitive Preliminary with another judge of at least F level

Prior to the event

- riders must be notified if there is only one judge officiating on a competition
- organising committees must notify the SDA in writing when only one judge will be officiating

In exceptional circumstances, applications for exemptions from the above rules, must be made in writing to the SDA preferably at least 7 days before the event. The SDA is to report to the EADC when these exemptions are granted.

#### **NOTE:**

- this exception does not apply to the number of judges required for State or Australian Championships
- judges may not judge above their accredited level
- for details about judges for Para Equestrian (PE) events please see rule 11.10.1.
- one judge of F level or above may judge Participation competitions at Preliminary and Novice level
- a G level judge may judge Participant Preliminary as a single judge but for Novice level Participant competitions they must judge with another judge of at least F level

When an OC wishes to use a foreign judge who is a national judge in their own country but not an FEI-accredited judge, the OC must provide details in writing and seek the approval of the EADOC.

### **3.22 Interruptions and risk management**

- a) in case of any technical failure or unforeseen circumstance that will interfere with the Competition, the Judge at C shall ring the bell
- b) it is recommended that in clear cases of external disturbance, the same procedure is applied
- c) during extreme weather conditions or other extreme situations, the Judge at C may ring the bell to interrupt the test
- d) the Technical Delegate/OC can request the Judge at C to stop the Competition
- e) the affected rider should return to complete their test from point of interruption when conditions so permit e.g. loose horse/lightning

### **3.23 Fall or injury to horse or rider**

In the event of a fall by horse or rider or other traumatic incident the following applies:

- a) it is the decision of the OC's designated first aid official to assess whether the rider may continue to compete at the event without first getting a medical clearance
- b) where a knock to the rider's head or body that transmits a force to the head is suspected, refer to Annex G -the EA Concussion Policy applies
- c) in the case of the horse, a vet or horse welfare officer will assess if the horse can continue to compete in that event

## **SECTION 4 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

### **4.1 Authority to determine eligibility of horse and/or rider for competition**

EA or affiliated organization conducting the dressage competition(s) on behalf of EA shall be empowered to refuse any entry, with or without stating reasons. They shall be the sole judges of the eligibility according to these rules of any horse or rider to compete in any particular level and may transfer any entry of any such horse or rider to any lower or higher-ranking level.

### **4.2 Entry of horses and riders**

After the close of entries:

- a) any change of rider must be notified, in writing, to the OC no later than 40 minutes prior to the start of the competition. The change must be for a legitimate reason and is at the discretion of the OC  
However, a rider of a horse may not be changed if another rider has ridden the horse on the day, either in warm-up or in a competition
- b) after the close of entries a competitor may only substitute a horse with the approval of the OC and no later than 48 hours before the start of an event
- c) the draw position cannot be changed without the permission of the OC or the C judge
- d) the draw is to be strictly adhered to and changes can only be made by the OC or the C judge
- e) any rider who rides out of order in the draw without the approval from the OC or C judge will be eliminated
- f) riders with two horses in the draw must compete in the order that the horse/rider combination is drawn
- g) a horse may only be ridden by one rider for the entire event except for promotional competitions (e.g. Derby)
- h) a horse may only be entered and compete once in each Competitive or Participant competition (including a HC entry)
- i) the number of horses per competitor is at the discretion of the OC

### **4.3 Scratchings/Withdrawals**

In regards to any scratching or withdrawing from a test or competition:

- a) a competitor may withdraw any or all of the horses that he/she has entered, subject to the Conditions of Entry
- b) a refund may only be made if documented proof (i.e. veterinary or medical certificate) is produced within 24 hours of the completion of the event to the Event Secretary
- c) a refund shall be a minimum of 50% of the entry fee

### **4.4 Gear check**

- a) a gear check is compulsory for each test and failure to have a gear check will entail elimination
- b) all competitors must present to the Steward or gear checker
- c) unless otherwise specified in the schedule or on the notice board the gear check for each test will take place prior to each test
- d) however, in circumstances where a horse is unsettled then the combination may request to have a gear check after their test – refer also to rule 6.5.1e, 6.5.1f
- e) failure to have a gear check will incur elimination
- f) the bit inspection should not be checked until after the test unless requested by the competitor

### **4.5 Youth events**

Competitions and activities for riders aged 10–21 years on horses (from 8 years for pony riders) are generally known in Australia as ‘youth’ events. Young Rider, however, is a specific age category of FEI Competition. Other FEI categories include Children, Juniors, and Pony Riders. Refer to the EA General Regulations, *Article 124 for the age groups*

Youth events may be offered at any level of competitive dressage



#### 4.6 Types of competitions at Official events

The following types of competitions may be held at any Official event conducted by an EA affiliated body:

- a) **Official Competitive competitions** using current official EA tests from Preliminary to Grand Prix, including Freestyle tests and Young Horse tests. Competitions may be limited to rider age groupings (e.g. Juniors, Young Riders) or to ponies or AOR riders only
- b) **Participation competitions** using EA tests from Preparatory to Novice level (including Freestyles)
- c) In addition, EA Para Dressage tests and FEI Para-Equestrian-level tests may be used in participation competitions (including Freestyles). See Section 11 *Para-Equestrian dressage* for further detail

##### 4.6.1 Amateur Owner Rider (AOR)

Amateur Owner Rider (AOR) is a division of Official Competitive riders. The intent of the division is to highlight and reward non-professional riders. For the purposes of this rule, a professional is someone who derives an income from activities in equestrian sport including breaking, training, coaching or riding horses. It does not however exclude riders who may also earn a living running an agistment property, work in the racing industry or saddlery for example. It is more about recognising riders with their own horses only to ride and train who are obliged to earn an income to support their sport outside of riding and training.

All amateur owner riders must meet the following criteria:

- a) the rider must be a Competitive member of their state branch of Equestrian Australia
- b) the horse must have a life registration with Equestrian Australia
- c) the horse/pony registration lodged with Equestrian Australia must reflect the name of the amateur owner rider as owner or part-owner of the horse. Leased horses are eligible if the amateur owner rider competitor is reflected as the lessee on the EA horse registration of that horse
- d) the rider may not receive payment for coaching
- e) the rider's income may only include sponsorship
- f) the horse/pony must be primarily ridden and trained by the rider/owner with only periodic ridden assistance by person(s) other than the owner, specifically during the period 4 weeks prior to the event
- g) the rider must be aged 21 and over – can enter in the calendar year in which they turn 21
- h) the division is for Official Competitive competitions. The Organising Committees may run this division at any level (ideally at all levels Preliminary - GP) and it can be run either within the competition or separately
- i) Organising Committees must designate the AOR on the draw if there is a separate competition conducted within the one competition
- j) for a State/Regional/Club Leader Board it would be ideal to select several events at which scores will count towards the annual Leader Board
- k) if the OC receives evidence that the rider is in breach of these rules then this rider will forfeit any awards and prizes

#### 4.7 Types of competitions at Restricted events

Clubs affiliated with their EA State Branch may hold restricted events:

- a) competitions may include any level of EA test from Preparatory to Grand Prix and Para-Equestrian, but are restricted to the conducting club's members only
- b) competition may also include club activities for club members against invited EA members to a maximum level of Participation competition (see rule 3.13b) up to and including the current Novice tests and all Para-Equestrian tests
- c) EA Dressage Rules apply to these events as per General Regulations Art 100

#### 4.8 Conditions of Entry for horses and ponies for all levels of Competitive and Participation competition

- a) the Condition of Entry rules must be adhered to otherwise the entry may be declined by the OC or the combination eliminated if there is a protest. All Official events and Official competitions, whether Competitive or Participation, are conducted under EA rules. They are sponsored by, or run on behalf of EA. Please refer to the EA General Regulations for membership requirements for Official competitions
- b) it is an offence under the EA Disciplinary By-Law for a rider to compete a horse/pony below its graded level
- c) to promote development, all Official EA events/competitions (including FEI-level competitions) are open to both horses and ponies. The exceptions to this are the Australian Dressage Championships, State Dressage Championships and Australian and State Pony Championships. Exceptions for Young and Junior rider competitions are to be approved by EADC
- d) in Official Competitive and Participation competitions any pony entries received may compete in any order in the competition
- e) separate prizes may be awarded for horses and ponies. It is strongly recommended that if there are three ponies or more in a competition, that the ponies are awarded prizes separately
- f) organisers may still schedule and advertise separate pony competitions, particularly if a test is expected to be oversubscribed, or anticipate sufficient entries in a test from both ponies and horses (i.e. up to 35 of each) which is too many to be judged by the same judge in a single day
- g) if Para-Equestrian riders are included in an Official competition but regarded as a separate competition, then they should be grouped together at the beginning or at the end of the draw (e.g. Grade 4 and Grade 5)

##### 4.8.1 Requirements for horses and ponies for Official Competitive competitions

Horses and ponies entered for Official Competitive competition:

- a) must be registered with EA and owned by a current financial EA member. EA registration papers must be made available on the day of competition
- b) must have a current Dressage Performance Card/Competition Licence (see rule 4.8.3.4)
- c) horses and ponies competing up to and including **advanced**:
  - must only enter and compete in 2 consecutive levels per an event (regardless of number of days)
  - can enter and compete in no more than 3 tests in one day. This may include a Freestyle or Young Horse competition
- d) for horses and ponies competing **PSG and above**:
  - can enter and compete in no more than 2 FEI-level tests per day and no more than 2 consecutive FEI levels per event. This includes a Freestyle test. If competing in an EA FEI test horses can only compete in one other EA test on the day
  - a horse that has competed PSG may only compete in one Advanced level test on the same day

#### 4.8.2 Definition of levels table

Level	Tests
Preparatory	4 current EA tests
Preliminary	3 current EA tests
Novice	3 current EA tests
Elementary	3 current EA tests
Medium	3 current EA tests
Advanced	3 current EA tests
Prix St Georges	FEI PSG
Intermediate I	FEI Intermediate I
FEI Medium Tour (Intro GP)	FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B
Intermediate II	FEI Intermediate II
Grand Prix	FEI Grand Prix FEI GP Special and FEI GP U25 Test

#### 4.8.3 Table of starting possibilities for levels and freestyles

Level of national competition for horse and rider combinations (only 2 consecutive levels permitted)	Level of Freestyle horse and rider combinations can compete in
Preparatory/Preliminary	Nil
Preliminary/Novice	Novice
Novice/Elementary	Novice or Elementary
Elementary/Medium	Elementary or Medium
Medium/Advanced	Medium or Advanced
Advanced/Prix St Georges	Advanced or Intermediate
Prix St Georges/Intermediate I	Intermediate
Intermediate I/Medium Tour (refer to Definition of Levels)	Intermediate or Medium Tour (not both)
Medium Tour/Intermediate II (refer to Definition of Levels)	FEI Medium Tour
Intermediate II/U 25 GP	Grand Prix
Intermediate II, Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special	Grand Prix

#### Additional notes:

- FEI Young Rider tests/competition is equivalent to Prix St Georges level
- FEI Pony tests/competition is equivalent to Elementary level
- FEI Junior tests/competition is equivalent to Medium level
- Intermediate Freestyle competition is limited to combinations that have achieved at least 58% in the Prix St Georges or Intermediate I
- Grand Prix Special competition is limited to the 15 highest-placed combinations in the Grand Prix. Such combinations must have achieved at least 60% in the Grand Prix competition
- Medium Tour Freestyle competition is limited to combinations who have achieved at least 58% in the Intermediate A or the Intermediate B
- Grand Prix Freestyle is limited to combinations that have achieved at least 58% in the Grand Prix and 60% at FEI-sanctioned events

- h) at FEI-sanctioned events the FEI Prix St Georges and/or FEI Intermediate I competitions are the qualifying tests for the FEI Intermediate Freestyle
- i) The FEI level GPCDN held at FEI sanctioned events in Australia is open to combinations that have on two occasions (in the 12 months prior to close of entries) achieved 60% at level
- j) at FEI-sanctioned events the FEI Grand Prix competition is the qualifying test for the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

#### 4.8.3.1 Grading points for entries

In relation to a horse or pony's grading points when entering a competition:

- a) grading is assessed as at the closing date of entries
- b) where an event is cancelled/postponed:
  - if the event can be re-scheduled within 6 weeks of the original date then a horse or pony may compete at the level they were as at the closing date of entries for the original event
  - if the event is rescheduled more than 6 weeks from the original date and in the meantime the horse or pony has been upgraded, the horse must compete at its new graded level

#### 4.8.3.2 Eligibility of horses, ponies and combinations for each level

In Official Competitive competitions the following criteria apply at the closing date of entries (see table below):

Graded level	Eligibility of Horses and Ponies for each level
<b>National Level Competitions</b>	
Preliminary/Novice	Horses/ponies with less than 40 upgrading points gained in Elementary and above
Elementary	Horses/ponies with less than 40 upgrading points gained in Medium and above
Medium	Horses/ponies with less than 40 upgrading points gained in Advanced and above
Advanced	Horses/ponies with less than 30 upgrading points gained in FEI competitions
Prix St Georges and Intermediate I tests including FEI Young Rider tests	Combinations must have achieved 60% or above on 2 occasions in Official Advanced competitions to be eligible to compete PSG, Intermediate 1. In the event that the competitions are held at the one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges
Intermediate A and B	Combinations must have gained at least 60% in an Official Intermediate I competition to compete in Intermediate A and B or Intermediate II
Intermediate II and EA Grand Prix, including U25 Grand Prix	Combinations must have gained 60% on two occasions in Intermediate A, B or Intermediate II to be eligible to compete Grand Prix and U25 Grand Prix. For GP CDNs held in conjunction with FEI Sanctioned events see Rule 4.8.3.i)
FEI National Competitions	Horses and riders providing proof of previous experience at the FEI level may apply to the EADC to waive qualification scores

<b>FEI-sanctioned Competitions - CDI PSG, Inter I, A, B, Intermediate II, GP, CDI U25, CDIY, CDIJ &amp; CDIP</b>	
Within Australia	Refer to rule 10.16.3
Outside Australia	Combinations wishing to represent Australia overseas at FEI sanctioned events outside of Australia refer to rule 10.16.2

**NOTE:** For new combinations at FEI levels from Prix St Georges to CDN Grand Prix, horses and riders providing proof of previous experience at the FEI level may apply to EADC to waive qualification scores based on evidence provided

#### 4.8.3.3 Heights of horses and ponies

In regards to the heights for horses and ponies:

- a) horses must exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- b) ponies must not exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- c) ponies must comply with the Equestrian Australia Measuring Rules
  - o to compete in official events at State Championships, National Championships, Young Pony or CDI Events
  - o State Branches are to provide measuring services to competitors at State Championships, National Championships, Young Pony and CDI Events and are encouraged to provide further opportunities for measuring throughout the State where possible
  - o Measuring Certificate is to be sighted (electronic copy) at entry or the height is to be recorded prior to competing at the event
- d) ponies 8 years and over may be eligible for a Life Measurement Certificate. Refer to rule 13 in the EA Measuring Rules.
- e) a pony without a current EA Measuring Certificate may be questioned by any Judge or Club Official and served with a "Request to Measure", with a notation provided to the State Branch. The pony must be measured before being permitted to compete in official pony tests. They may still compete in open events
- f) the SDA will determine if a transfer from horse to pony status or from pony to horse status is required and advise the EA State Branch accordingly
- g) all current grading points will transfer with a change in status
- h) a new Dressage Card/Performance Licence will be issued

**NOTE:** Current EA Measuring Rules apply

#### 4.8.3.4 Age of horses/ponies

In regard to the age of horses and ponies:

- a) horses/ponies must be aged 3 years or over to be eligible for a Dressage Performance Card/Competitor Licence. To be eligible for a Dressage Performance Card/Competition Licence, the age of the horse is determined by its natural birthday
- b) horses/ponies must be aged 5 years or over to be eligible to compete in Para-Dressage.
- c) the calculation of the age of horse/pony depends on the hemisphere where the horse/pony was born. The country of birth is used to determine the age of the horse/pony
- d) for horses born in the Southern Hemisphere, and all Young Horses (see rule 9.1b) age is assessed from August 1 of the year of birth. For horses born in the Northern Hemisphere age is assessed from January 1 of the year of birth.
- e) the following formula is to be used to calculate the age of horses:
  - A = age (in years)
  - C = current year
  - B = year of birth

		Before and until 31 July	From and after 1 August
Born	Before and until 31 July	$A = C - B$	$A = C - B + 1$
	From and after 1 August	$A = C - B - 1$	$A = C - B$

#### 4.8.3.5 Ages of horses and ponies for FEI-level tests at EA events and FEI-sanctioned events in Australia and internationally

Horses/ponies of any origin may take part provided they are aged as per the following table:

<b>6 years</b> and over	FEI Pony tests, FEI Junior tests
<b>7 years</b> and over	FEI Prix St Georges, FEI Young Rider tests, FEI Young Rider Freestyle, Intermediate I and Intermediate Freestyle (EA events and FEI- sanctioned Events)
<b>8 years</b> and over	Intermediate A, Intermediate B, Intermediate II, Medium Tour Freestyle, FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (EA events and FEI sanctioned events)
<b>FEI-Young Horses</b>	Age for all Young Horses is assessed from 1 August, regardless of where they were born

#### 4.8.3.6 Age and eligibility of imported horses/ponies

In relation to age and eligibility:

- a) horses born in the Northern Hemisphere must be at least 7 years of age on 1 January to be eligible to enter FEI and FEI levels (excluding FEI Pony Tests), and 8 years to enter Grand Prix
- b) horses born in the Southern Hemisphere must be at least 7 years of age on 1 August to be eligible to enter FEI and FEI levels (excluding FEI Pony Tests), and 8 years to enter Grand Prix
- c) an imported horse/pony must be graded by the SDA, and owners of the horse/pony registered with a foreign National Federation must:
  - provide the SDA with written evidence of overseas performances. If the horse/pony does not have any performances and is to be competed at FEI level, the requirement as set out in rule 4.8.3.2 must be completed. Refer also to rule 4.8.3.5

#### 4.8.4 Age eligibility of riders

Riders may enter **Official** competitions:

- a) from the start of the calendar year they turn 10 years of age when riding horses
- b) from the start of the calendar year they turn 8 years of age when riding ponies
- c) provided they are a Junior or Senior financial member of EA in the appropriate category

#### **4.8.4.1 Age categories used in EA Youth Competitions**

- a) Junior Rider is eligible to compete from the start of the year they turn 10 (the year they turn 8 if riding a pony) to the end of the year they turn 18
- b) a Young Rider is eligible to compete in Young Rider competitions from the start of the year in which they turn 16 years of age to the end of the year they turn 21
- c) a Young Rider or a Junior Rider is eligible to compete in their respective Young Rider competitions or Junior competitions and Official competitions on the same horse at the same event but no more than 3 tests per day (refer also to rule 4.8.4)
- d) a Junior of the appropriate age may enter and compete in Junior and Young Rider competitions at the same event, providing they ride a different horse in each competition
- e) all riders may ride in Young Pony competitions from the year they turn 10 and Young Horse competitions from the year they turn 12

#### **4.8.4.2 Stallions**

- a) Stallion Safe Practices Policy can be found here - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/stallion-safe-practice> . Stallions are not permitted to be ridden by riders under 18 years of age.

#### **4.8.5 Horse Identification numbers and Stallion ID at events**

Horse Identification numbers are compulsory for identification purposes and must be used at all times at an event so that the horse can be identified by all Officials including Stewards.

- a) two numbers are required to be worn when competing – one on each side of the horse - preferably attached to both sides of the saddlecloth, or both sides of the bridle and must be clearly legible
- b) the Horse Identification Number must also be worn as described whenever the horse is being ridden/lunged/led/tethered or grazed from the time of their arrival on the grounds until the end of the event
- c) identification numbers shall be discreet on white background, the colour of the numbers may vary
- d) green stallion identification discs or number holders as issued by EA must be worn by stallions at all times at an event
- e) identification must be clearly displayed on both sides of the stallion's head (attached to bridle or halter) or both sides of the saddle cloth: as per EA regulations
- f) horse Identification numbers must be worn in addition to stallion discs, either as the EA issued green bridle identification number holder or the green EA issued stallion disc identification plus horse ID number

Failure to correctly wear Horse Identification Numbers will incur the following:

- g) when led, grazed, lunged or ridden on the grounds. An initial verbal warning followed by the issuing of a Yellow Warning Card for further non-compliance
- h) if the horse does enter in the competition arena not wearing correct identification numbers, -2 points per judge is deducted

#### **4.9 Upgrading points**

Riders must be aware of the following in regards to upgrading points:

- a) a Competitor Licence /Dressage Performance Card must be held to acquire upgrading points
- b) a horse or pony must be registered with EA to acquire grading points
- c) upgrading points are only accrued at levels ABOVE the horse or pony's current grading (e.g. if horse is graded Preliminary/Novice it can only gain upgrading points in Elementary and above)

- d) for upgrades up to and including Medium level, a horse or pony must gain 40 upgrading points in levels higher than their current grading, to be graded at the next consecutive level (e.g. if a horse currently graded Preliminary/Novice, competes Elementary, Medium or above and gains 40 grading points at these higher levels the horse is then upgraded to Elementary). A horse/pony needs at least 30 upgrading points to upgrade from Medium to Advanced
- e) a horse/pony can only be upgraded one level at a time
- f) horses and ponies are graded on a points system based on percentage gained in tests
- g) points are accrued when the horse or pony gains 61% or above in Official Competitive competitions from Elementary level and above
- h) points gained at Official competitions outside Australia will also be counted
- i) when, for any reason, the height of a horse/pony changes and they are required to change from a pony to a horse (or vice versa), the grading and any upgrading points of the horse/pony shall be retained in the new category
- j) upgrading points are accrued for all Official competitive competitions regardless of any age restriction

#### **4.9.1 Awarding of upgrading points**

In relation to the awarding of points:

- a) upgrading points are awarded for ALL Official Competitive competitions, including youth competitions (with the exception of Freestyle, Young Horse and Participation competitions), regardless of any restrictions (e.g. age and breed of horse, etc)
- b) upgrading points are awarded based on percentage only regardless of placing
- c) points gained are determined as:
  - between 61% to 62.999% = 1 point
  - between 63% to 64.999% = 2 points
  - between 65% to 66.999% = 3 points
  - between 67% to 68.999% = 4 points
  - between 69% to 70.999% = 5 points
  - between 71% to 72.999% = 6 points
  - 73% and over = 7 points

#### **4.10 Downgrading of horses/ponies**

Applications for downgrading of horses/ponies for any category of competition must be directed to the relevant SDA and the following apply:

- a) applications for downgrading must be made in writing with supporting documentation
- b) an application to downgrade a horse/pony must be made or endorsed by the registered owner or lessee
- c) each request will be considered separately and, on its merit
- d) the decision to downgrade and to what level is entirely at the discretion of the SDA
- e) downgrading may occur only once in the duration of a rider's partnership with the horse/pony
- f) downgrading may occur more than once in a horse/pony's lifetime but must not occur more than once in a 2-year period
- g) will only apply to those graded at least Elementary level and above
- h) must not exceed a maximum of three levels (e.g. Advanced to Novice refer to rule 4.8.2 for definition of levels)
- i) if the horse is ridden by someone other than the rider for whom the downgrade is requested, it must compete at its previous level and any grading points earned will be awarded in relation to that previous level
- j) when a downgrade is granted the combination must fulfil any criteria regarding eligibility of horses/ponies for each level as outlined in 4.8.3.2



#### **4.11 Conditions of Entry for Participation competitions**

For riders wishing to compete in Participation level competitions:

- a) refer to the EA General Regulation for membership requirements
- b) the minimum age for riders on ponies is from the start of the year in which they turn 8 and on horses from the start of the year in which they turn 10
- c) one rider per horse is permitted at any event
- d) please refer to your state authority in relation to state-specific membership requirements
- e) refer to the EA General Regulations for any horse/pony registration requirements
- f) there is no restriction on the height of the horse/pony
- g) if a horse/pony is graded, it may only compete at its graded level or higher, or HC at a lower level

##### **4.11.1 General**

Other items to note for Participation-level competitions:

- a) only clubs or organisations affiliated with EA are eligible to conduct Participation competitions
- b) competitions are conducted under the rules of EA with some minor exceptions as mentioned in 4.11 (e.g. height, age)
- c) Participation activity is limited to a maximum Novice level and includes Para-Equestrian competitions (refer to rule 11.4)
- d) Participation competitions do not attract grading points
- e) Participation competitions can be conducted in conjunction with Competitive competitions
- f) affiliated organisations restricting competitions to their members only and using EA tests may only classify such competitions as Restricted events
- g) where the same test is offered for more than one membership category (e.g. Competitive and Participation) each entire competition must be judged separately
- h) each category may be conducted consecutively

#### **4.12 Hors Concours (HC)**

In relation to competing as Hors Concours:

- a) horses/ponies may compete HC at any level
- b) HC entries must be declared in writing prior to the start of the competition
- c) horses/ponies entered HC are not eligible for any prize or prize money
- d) grading points will not be awarded
- e) for Official Competitive and Participant competitions all HC entries must comply in every way with the rules governing EA competitions
- f) a horse may only be entered and compete once in each Competitive or Participant competition (including HC entry)

#### **4.13 Declaration**

It is obligatory in some events that competitors declare their intention of competing or withdrawing in order to ensure the smooth running of the schedule of competitions. The details of such requirement must be shown in the schedule.

#### 4.14 Conditions of Entry table

Conditions of Entry table		OFFICIAL COMPETITIVE COMPETITION		OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION COMPETITION	YOUNG HORSE and PONY COMPETITIONS
		HORSE	PONY		
HORSE or PONY	Height	exceeding 149 cm with shoes, 148cm without shoes	not exceeding 149 cm with shoes, 148cm without shoes	may be open height or split horses /ponies depending on OC requirements	<b>Horse:</b> exceeding 149 cm with shoes, 148 cm without shoes  <b>Pony:</b> not exceeding 149cm with shoes 148cms without shoes
	EA registered	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Performance Card/ Competition Licence available from date of 3rd birthday	Yes	Pony Dressage Card	No	Yes
	Official bridle number	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Grading points	Yes	Yes	No	Official but no grading points
	Min age of horse and birthdates FEI ages as of: 1 August – Sth. Hem 1 January – Nth. Hem	EA Tests: 3 FEI Tests: 7 Grand Prix: 8	EA Tests: 3 FEI Pony Tests: 6	As per Competitive	YH: 4, 5 or 6 on 1 August only
RIDER	Age – Minimum	Start of year turn 10	Start of year turn 8	Same as Competitive	YH: start of year turn 12
	Age – Maximum	Nil	Nil	Same as Competitive	YH: Nil
	EA Membership	Yes	Yes	must be financial with EA (Participation or higher) or with host club	Yes
	Host club membership	Not Required	Not Required		Not Required

<b>TESTS</b>	<b>Consecutive levels entered</b>	Max 2	Max 2	Max 2	Max 2
	<b>Max EA tests In one day</b> (includes Official, Participation, Freestyles, YH)	Max 3	Max 3	Max 3	Max 3
	<b>Max FEI tests in one day</b> (including Freestyles)	Max 2	Max 2	Max 2	Max 2

## SECTION 5 DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

### 5.1 Compulsory dress by level and penalties for incorrect dress and equipment

The following dress is permitted according to the level of competition.

Penalties for incorrect or not permitted dress, saddlery and equipment are outlined in Annex E

- if dress, saddlery or equipment is “not permitted”, wearing such items will entail elimination
- the wearing of “incorrect” dress for the appropriate level will incur a penalty of - 2 points from each judge. Refer table Annex E

#### 5.1.1 Dress per level table

Level	Hat	Coat	Shirt	Stock / Tie	Jodhpurs/ Breeches	Boots	Gloves
<b>Up to Medium level</b>	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat as per 5.8	Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.	A stock or tie must be worn	White or light coloured breeches/ jodhpurs	Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots Black, brown or same colour as coat (see 5.3) with or without gaiters. (see 5.4)	Must be worn, they may be white or a coordinating colour
<b>Advanced level</b>	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat or tailcoat as per 5.8	A long, short sleeved or sleeveless shirt, and an appropriately pinned down stock, tie or ratcatcher must be worn.		Seat may be dark colour		
<b>FEI Levels Prix St Georges – Grand Prix</b>	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat or tailcoat, - colour as per FEI rules see 5.8		a stock or tie in white, off-white, pale colour, same colour as coat or a shade of the coat colour, coloured trim is permitted	White or off-white breeches/ jodhpurs  Seat may be dark colour	Long Boots: Black or same colour as coat (see 5.3)	White, off white preferred or same colour as jacket
<b>Optional at all levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>military personnel, police, etc, may wear service dress with a safety helmet</li> <li>spurs, whip, monkey grip, back protector</li> </ul>						

### 5.2 Headgear and helmets

In relation to helmets and other headwear:

- any person mounted on a horse must wear an approved safety helmet with the retaining harness secured and fastened. Failure to have the harness fastened will entail elimination.

Protective headgear must conform with one of the current approved safety standards outlined below.

The EA General Regulations at rule 122.2 prescribe the current standards. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure they are using a current standard safety helmet.

- current Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked
- new Australian standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked
- current American standards ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked, or SNELL E2001
- current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked
- interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark
- black or may be same colour as coat, a reflective strip (not to entire helmet) permitted



BSI Kitemarked



SAI Global marked



SEI marked

**5.2.1** All headgear should be secured when competing. However, if a rider's hat comes off during the test the C Judge must stop the test, so the rider can retrieve and replace the hat. The rider can have outside assistance to retrieve the hat. Once the hat has been replaced the test and judging recommences from where it was stopped.

**5.2.2** Any type of camera **may not be attached to a helmet or anywhere on the rider, saddle or horse.**

### **5.3 Footwear**

In regards to a rider's footwear:

- a) all riders must wear riding boots, when mounted
- b) all boots must have heels and smooth soles or only lightly indented tread for safety reasons
- c) unsafe boots will entail elimination
- d) the exposed side of long boots must be smooth, a discrete zipper on the outside is permitted
- e) all boots must be a single colour, except for top boots or gaiters with a hunting top. Refer table 5.1.1 for colour of boots
- f) decorative features on top boots or gaiters are permitted only on the top edge of boots or hunting tops providing it is the same colour as the boot or of a colour to match the jacket

### **5.4 Gaiters/Chapettes**

Riders please note:

- a) gaiters may be worn up to and including Advanced (Including YH events) with short coat only
- b) gaiters may only be worn with approved short boots
- c) the exposed side of the gaiter must be full grain leather
- d) the gaiters must match the colour of the boots, which must be black, brown or same colour as the coat
- e) gaiters may have hunting tops but only in brown, black or same colour as the boots
- f) suede on the exposed side of the gaiter is not permitted

### **5.5 Spurs**

Riders please note:

- a) spurs may be worn by all competitors
- b) spurs must be identical on both sides, i.e., they must be a pair
- c) spurs must be made of metal or hard plastic
- d) a curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot; rowels also must point directly back from the centre of the spur
- e) the **tip** of the shank must not point up or point inwards. Swan neck spurs are permitted
- f) the arms of the spur must be smooth
- g) if rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Daisy rowels are permitted
- h) rowels must be in a vertical plane
- i) rowels in a horizontal plane are not permitted
- j) soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane are permitted
- k) pony riders, (regardless of age), may only wear spurs that are no longer than 4.0 cm. The length of the spur is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur  
**NOTE:** for FEI CDIP competitions, spurs no longer than 3.5cm are permitted
- l) there is no maximum length of spurs for riders of horses
- m) metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are permitted
- n) dummy spurs with no shank are permitted
- o) Impulse spurs are permitted
- p) non-compliance or incorrect spurs will entail elimination

For further information regarding spurs, please see the current Dressage equipment on the EA website (<http://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage-rules>)

## 5.6 Whips

In relation to the carrying and using of whips:

- a) riders of horses may carry a whip up to 1.20m (120cm)
- b) riders of ponies may carry a whip up to 1.00m (100cm)
- c) the tassel is included when measuring the length of a whip
- d) for any horse/pony one whip, as specified above, may be carried and used
  - in the exercise and warm-up areas
  - in all tests up to and including Advanced level at all events including championships
  - by a rider anywhere on the ground when riding or leading a horse/pony
  - by other parties, providing that it is not used in connection with training a horse/pony
- e) whips are not to be carried at:
  - FEI-level tests at all State and Australian Championships (including Australian AOR, Australian Youth championships and Australian Pony Championships)
  - for Young Horse competitions refer to rule 9.1
- f) a lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony
- g) incorrect length or use of whip will entail elimination (as per annex E)

In FEI-level competitions at Australian and any State Championships a rider:

- circling the arena carrying a whip will incur a penalty of - 2 points from each judge
- entering the dressage arena with a whip will incur a penalty of - 2 points from each judge (this is not an error of course)
- carrying a whip in a test for more than 3 movements will entail elimination

## 5.7 Shirts and neck wear

In regards to wearing of shirts and stocks/ties:

- a) the shirt should be tucked in. Collar and parts that will be visible when wearing a jacket should be white or a pale or coordinating colour. Patterns on body and sleeves of shirt are permitted even when not wearing a coat
- b) the collar must be either a ratcatcher or business-style collar – if the latter then a tie must be worn
- c) the shirt may be long sleeved, short sleeved, capped sleeve or sleeveless
- d) a waistcoat may be worn
- e) stocks are to be white, off white, a pale colour or same colour as coat, piping trim is permitted

## 5.8 Jackets and coats

In regards to the colour and style of jackets and coats for competition:

- a) from Preliminary to Advanced levels (informal), a jacket or coat must be short, may be double breasted. Cutaway coats/mini tails are permitted providing they are cut straight across the back
- b) for Advanced and all FEI levels, a tailcoat is optional. Jackets are permitted
- c) up to Advanced, the colour of the jacket or coat should be a solid colour or a very faint or tweed pattern
- d) for FEI levels jackets and coats should be a dark colour having a brightness value of less than 32% on the international HSV colour scale. Refer to the FEI website for Colour Chart  
<http://www.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/useful-docs>
- e) bright colours such as red, orange, pink, yellow, lime green, purple and wide contrast stripes and multi-coloured jackets and coats are not permitted
- f) accents such as piping and matching colour sections on collars and/or pocket flaps of a different colour to the coat are permitted
- g) tailcoats may be worn with snaffle
- h) wearing a coat is optional if the rider feels overheated

- i) waistcoats and fitted vests are permitted with jackets and coats or when jackets and coats are not worn in hot weather
- j) back protectors may be worn under or over the jacket or coat
- k) a non flapping rain jacket, either clear or similar colour to the coat may be worn over the coat in wet weather

## 5.9 Pocket badges and Advertising

Pocket badges are only issued to riders for specific occasions. On most occasions only one pocket badge should be worn at competitions. A rider may have a second badge when riding as a representative. Once a rider has represented Australia at a World Championships or an Olympic Games they may wear the Australian flag pocket badge at all times. Information about the dimensions of the badge can be found in the EA General Regulations, *Article 135*.

**Advertising and Publicity on Riders and Horses** refer to the EA General Regulations Art 135 for information on flags and sponsor logos on saddlery and clothing.

## 5.10 Saddles and saddlecloths

In regards to permitted saddles and saddle cloths:

- a) a fully mounted dressage-type saddle (including all-purpose) of traditional or treeless construction is compulsory and may be used with or without a saddlecloth
- b) all parts of the saddle to be black or brown only. Coloured piping on the seat of the saddle permitted
- c) Western saddles are not permitted and will entail elimination
- d) any saddle that does not meet the required criteria will entail elimination
- e) a crupper may be worn by ponies
- f) saddlecloths may be square or shaped. White is preferred but pale colours permitted
- g) a sheepskin/fleece girth cover is permitted

### 5.10.1 Stirrups

In regards to stirrups:

- a) must be black or silver or same colour as the rider's boots
- b) safety stirrups, including toe stoppers, are permitted
- c) lock in stirrups, stirrup tie downs and magnetised stirrups are not permitted
- d) stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. The foot must not be fully enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets). Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch
- e) in the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather must hang freely from the bar of the saddle on the outside of the flap (this also applies to safety stirrups). The rider must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddle or stirrup

## 5.11 Bridles, nosebands and bits

In regard to permitted bridles:

- a) bridles must be black or brown. Coloured accent or piping is permitted
- b) except for the buckles and padding the headstall and noseband, must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not be in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crown piece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the horse or the bit
- c) padding is permitted under bridles, but any padding used must be discreet and applied to the underside of the bridle only
- d) a browband is required, and except for the parts that attach to the crown piece or headstall is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material
- e) the crown piece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull

- f) a throat latch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem bridle are used
- g) the reins of a bridle must be black or brown. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand
- h) each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit
- i) the reins can be made of leather, cotton, synthetic or a mix of these materials, Reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material
- j) rein additions are not permitted and there must be no attachments, elastic inserts, loops or otherwise along the length of the rein. Martingale stoppers and continental reins with billets are permitted
- k) bitless bridles are not permitted

#### **5.11.1 Nosebands**

In regard to nosebands:

- a) a noseband is compulsory
- b) the wearing of two nosebands at an event is not permitted and will entail elimination
- c) the wearing of non-approved nosebands will entail elimination
- d) nosebands may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. Officials should not loosen the noseband but request the rider to do so. If the rider refuses and the official is of the opinion the noseband is still too tight; the Ground Jury should be approached to make a ruling
- e) padding under the noseband is permitted as long as it is securely attached

#### **5.11.2 Bits**

In regard to all bits:

The use of non-approved bit/s or incorrect thickness of bit/s will entail elimination

- a) bits must be smooth with a solid surface, all parts going into the horse's mouth shall be rounded, and not ridged, sharp or corrugated
- b) twisted and wire bits are prohibited
- c) bits must be made of metal, rigid plastic, or durable synthetic material and may be covered with rubber or latex
- d) bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue
- e) the diameter of the mouthpiece must be such so as not to hurt the horse
- f) the diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece
- g) mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joints
- h) wrapping of bit with any kind of material is not permitted

#### **5.11.3 Snaffle bridle**

A snaffle bridle is an English-type bridle with a single snaffle-type bit and one set of reins

- a) a snaffle bridle is compulsory in all tests up to and including Elementary level
- b) a snaffle bridle is optional at Medium level, Advanced and all FEI-level competitions
- c) one-eared bridles are not permitted under penalty of elimination

##### **5.11.3.1 Nosebands for snaffle bridles**

It is compulsory to have one (only) of the following nosebands on a snaffle bridle:

- a) dropped noseband (see Illustration 1)
- b) cavesson noseband (see Illustration 2)
- c) flash (or Hanoverian) noseband (see Illustration 3)
- d) crossed (Grackle or Mexican noseband (not permitted in Young Horse competitions) (see Illustration 4)

See 5.21 for illustrations of permitted nosebands



#### 5.11.3.2 Snaffle Bits

The use of non-approved bit/s or incorrect thickness of bit/s will entail elimination. Bit measurement has a tolerance of +/-1mm.

Only snaffle bits that have the following features are approved for use in dressage:

- a) the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm for ponies including Young Pony competitions and 12mm for horses (14mm in Young horse competitions see rule 9.1.2)
- b) snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, eggbutt or hanging cheeks (Baucher). Single or double-jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, hanging cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring
- c) a snaffle may have up to two joints. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the centre link in a double-jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate
- d) a double-jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a curve within the dimensions specified above
- e) forward curved bits are permitted but not with hanging cheeks and they must have a joint (i.e. centrepiece must move) and can have fixed or loose ring

Keeping within the definition above, some of the types of bits permitted are described and illustrated at the end of this section in rule 5.20. Also permitted but not illustrated:

- f) half-moon — port-mouth — curved
- g) rubber or synthetic bits covering metal (but not chain) – both jointed and unjointed
- h) sweet iron bit

#### 5.11.4 Double bridle

- a) a double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit and curb chain (made of metal or leather or a combination). Both bits have a set of reins attached
- b) a double bridle with a pelham bit is not permitted in any dressage test. If metal bits are used, all parts of the bit going into the horse's mouth must be of metal (not necessarily the same metal)
- c) a double bridle may be worn in the warm up for tests where a double bridle is permitted. i.e. Medium tests and above and 7yo Young Horse tests

##### 5.11.4.1 Bridoon

A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit that is used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle.

In addition to rule 5.11 - Bits, the bridoon bit of a double bridle must also comply with the following:

- a) flexible rubber or synthetic bits or those made of rubber or rubber and chain are not permitted
- b) bridoons may have loose ring, D-ring or eggbutt cheeks
- c) the diameter of the mouthpiece must be such so as not to hurt the horse, the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm diameter
- d) must have one or two joints. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed bridoon; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may not have the effect of a tongue plate
- e) bridoons where the centre link(s) of the bit can lock and have the effect of a mullen mouth snaffle are not permitted
- f) multiple 'rollers' are not permitted

#### **5.11.4.2 Curb**

The curb bits of the double bridle must comply with the following:

- a) the curb must be made of metal, rigid plastic or durable synthetic material and may be covered with rubber/latex (manufactured state)
- b) must be smooth with a solid surface, all parts going into the horse's mouth shall be rounded and not ridged, sharp or corrugated
- c) twisted and wire bits are prohibited
- d) flexible rubber or synthetic bits or those made of rubber or rubber and chain are not permitted
- e) the mouthpiece may be straight or shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm
- f) the upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek
- g) curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks. They may have rotating lever arms
- h) the curb 'chain' can be made of metal, leather or a combination. The cover for curb chain' can be made of leather, rubber or sheepskin. Curb chain hooks may be fixed or not fixed
- i) the curb chain must be correctly fitted (must lie flat against the horse's chin). Curb chains may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse
- j) the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 12mm
- k) the lever arm of the curb bit (length below the mouthpiece) is limited to 10 cm
- l) if the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than 10 cm when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position

#### **5.11.4.3 Double bridle noseband**

- a) a cavesson noseband is compulsory with a double bridle under penalty of elimination
- b) refer to 5.21 diagram 5, when used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the nose band is not permitted

#### **5.11.4.4 Optional Items for double bridles (not compulsory)**

- a) lip strap (see Illustration 12)
- b) leather cover for curb chain (see Illustration 13)
- c) rubber cover for curb chain (see Illustration 14)

## 5.12 Table of equipment permitted/not permitted

Details of equipment	Permitted in competition	Permitted in warm-up & exercise areas but NOT past Gear Steward & NOT in competition	NOT permitted at an event or venue The wearing of any of the following at an event will entail elimination
Any equipment which the Ground Jury, TD or Chief Steward may determine is against the intent and general principles of dressage			X
Balancing reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)			X
Bearing reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)			X
Bit guards (leather/rubber circular gadgets that stop the bit pulling through)			X
Bitless bridles e.g. hackamores			X
Blinkers, any form			X
Boots, bell boots and bandages Penalties are cumulative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 pts from each judge if worn in the space around the arena</li> <li>-2 pts from each judge if worn in the arena</li> </ul>	
Breastplates	Up to and incl Medium with a snaffle bridle		
Crystal mane bands			X
Snaffle Bridle	All levels	All levels	
Double bridle	Med & above & 7yo Young Horse competitions	Med & above & 7yo Young Horse competitions	
Ear plugs	Permitted in presentations only		
False tail/tail extensions - no metal or added extra weight – penalty of elimination For FEI-sanctioned events refer to FEI rules Article 428.4	All levels – no metal or added extra weight or elimination		
Foregirths	All levels		
Grass reins			X
Headphones or similar devices		X	
Decoration on the horse incl mane/tail with items such as ribbons, flowers, glitter, etc, is, not permitted, apart from a red ribbon in the tail to indicate a horse that kicks			X
Monkey grip	All levels		
Nasal strips			X
Neck straps	All levels for safety purposes only		
Removable over-boots (e.g. Easy Boot/Mac Boot/Hoof Boot, Scoot Boot)		X	
Running martingales		with a snaffle bridle	
Running reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)			X
Saddles – coloured piping	Yes		
Saddle covers (e.g. sheepskin or rain covers, etc)		X	
Stirrups – lock in, tie downs, magnetised			X
Tongue ties			X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whip (1 only)</li> <li>• Horses 1.2 m in length</li> <li>• Ponies 1 m in length</li> <li>• Refer to rule 5.6 for exceptions</li> <li>• Penalties are cumulative</li> </ul>	<p>All levels subject to conditions of the event</p>	<p><b>In FEI level competitions at Australian &amp; State Championships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -2 per judge if carried circling arena in events where not permitted</li> <li>• -2 per judge if carried in the arena-elimination if carried in test for more than 3 movements</li> </ul>
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### 5.13 Lunging equipment

When lunging a horse or pony the following equipment rules apply:

- lunging cavessons are permitted
- only one lunge rein may be used (more than one lunge rein and long reining not permitted)
- snaffles with a cavesson or a normal dropped noseband, Mexican noseband or a Flash noseband, running martingales (with snaffle only), boots and bandages are permitted
- double bridles are permitted but the lunge line or side reins are not permitted to be attached to the curb bit
- horses must be attached to a lunge line and be wearing a bit or lunging cavesson when being lunged at an event
- the lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event
- ear hoods are permitted
- a lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony

### 5.14 Ear hoods

Ear hoods are permitted to be worn under the following conditions:

- the ear hood must be a correct size for the horse and not cover the horse's eyes
- the ear hood may be made of material which provides for sound reduction
- ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband
- the OC/TD/Gear Steward may, after completion of the test, request the removal of any ear hood to verify that no additional insulation from manufactured state has been inserted in the ear hood and that ear plugs have not been inserted

### 5.15 Nose nets

Nose nets are only permitted to be used in competitions and warm-up on written approval by the EADC. Permission will be given on a case-by-case basis and the following will apply:

- applications, with a supporting letter from a veterinarian, are to be sent to the EADC
- registration details and name of the horse must appear in the application and also the veterinary certificate
- if approved, the rider of the horse with the nose net must send in a copy of the approval letter from the EADC with entries
- a copy of the approval letter will be sent to the relevant SDA for their records
- the rider must also produce a copy of the approval letter from EADC on request to a gear checker, steward or judge at the event
- it is also recommended that OCs place a copy on the judges' sheets and advise all stewards
- the nose net must be made of transparent material as per the example in rule 5.23
- the nose net must not cover the mouth or bit

### 5.16 Over-boots/Hoof boots

In regards to horse wearing shoes or hoof coverings:

- it is not mandatory for horses to be shod
- removable over-boots/hoof boots are permitted in the warm-up area but NOT permitted past the gear check or into the competition surrounds or arena
- glued-on shoes cannot cover any more of the hoof than does a nailed shoe, and the bulbs of the heel and full circumference of coronary band must be clearly visible

### **5.17 Protective coverings/ Boots/ Bandages**

The following applies to any coverings of parts of the horse

- a) boots and/or bandages are permitted in warm-up but are not permitted in the competition arena  
Penalties are outlined in rule 5.12
- b) any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not, is strictly forbidden at an event when the horse is under saddle during training, warm-up and competition and will entail elimination

### **5.18 Exemption Cards and riders with a disability**

In order that riders with a disability may compete on equal terms, an Exemption scheme has been established by EA.

The scheme provides for exemption to EA Dressage Rules for riders who:

- a) are members of Equestrian Australia
- b) have an identified diagnosed disability supported by medical documentation but who are not eligible for Para-Equestrian classification
- c) would be eligible for Para-Equestrian classification but do not wish to be classified for PE competition

Application for Exemption forms are available from EA at

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/exemption-cards-dressage>)

Once received, each application will be considered by the EA Exemption Committee comprising:

- an accredited EA Para-Equestrian Classifier
- an A level dressage judge with a knowledge of judging riders with a disability
- an EA qualified coach with experience with riders with a disability

Upon approval by the Committee the rider will be issued with an EA Exemption Card for use in dressage competitions run under EA National Rules only. Exemption cards for compensatory aids will not apply to Young Horse competitions. Test calling in young Horse competitions will be permitted for riders with the appropriate exemption card.

Applications for exemptions for religious dress requirements should be sent to the EADC. Safety and welfare may not be compromised by such exemptions.

The Exemption Card will list the exemptions/special equipment permitted and a 'Valid to' date up to a maximum of four years. A copy of the Exemption Card must be provided to the OC at the time of entry and should be carried by the rider throughout the Competition. Para-Equestrian riders please refer to Section 10 for further information.

## 5.19 Gear check list

Please check the equipment page on the EA website for the latest updates to approved/not approved dress and gear at [www.equestrian.org.au/sport/dressage/equipment](http://www.equestrian.org.au/sport/dressage/equipment)

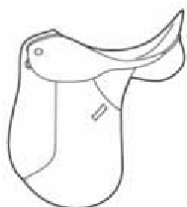
Please read carefully		Preliminary to Advanced	FEl tests at EA events*
Headgear training/practice	Approved safety helmet	Compulsory	Compulsory
Headgear final warm-up and competition	Approved safety helmet	Compulsory	Compulsory
	Helmet	Black or same colour as coat. A Reflective strip is permitted but not entire helmet	
Jacket/Coat Refer to rule 5.1 and 5.8	General	To be in dark colour range – HSV blue, green, black, grey, brown. Tweed coats permitted. Bright colours such as pink, red, orange, yellow, lime green, purple and wide contrast stripes and multi coloured coats not permitted	
	Short coat/jacket	✓	✓
	Tailcoat –colour asper rule 5.1.4	X Optional at Advanced level	✓
	Cutaway coat /mini tails are permitted providing they are cut straight across the back.	✓	✓
Jodhpurs or breeches	Jodhpurs	✓	X
	Breeches	White, or light coloured	✓ White or off-white
Shirt	Refer to rule 5.7	Tucked in when not wearing a coat. Can be long sleeved, short sleeved, capped sleeve or sleeveless. Collar can be ratcatcher or business style – if latter tie must be worn	
Tie, stock or ratcatcher	Tie	✓	✓
	Stock	✓	White, off-white, pale colour or same colour as coat. Piping trim is permitted
	Ratcatcher	✓	✓
Waistcoat		✓	✓
Gloves		Compulsory at all levels	white preferred or a dark colour to match coat

Please read carefully		Preliminary to Advanced		FEI tests at EA events*
Boots	Short, black or brown	✓		X
	Top boots	black/brown or same colour as coat (hunting tops permitted)		black or same colour as coat
Gaiters	Black or brown or to match boots. Exposed side must be full grain leather.	✓		X
Spurs		Optional		Optional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be smooth metal. Shank must point directly back from centre of spur when on the boot</li><li>• Must be a pair</li><li>• <b>Tip</b> of shank must not point up or inward. Soft touch spurs with rolling ball on either vertical or horizontal plane</li></ul>	<p>Rowels must be blunt/smooth and rotate freely. Daisy rowels permitted. Metal spurs with plastic knobs, 'swan-neck' spurs and dummy spurs (no shank) permitted.</p> <p><b>Pony riders</b>, regardless of age, may only wear spurs no longer than 4 cm. Length of the spur is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.</p> <p>Must be black or silver or same colour as rider's boots</p>		
Whip	Max length 1.2m horses and 1.0m ponies	✓		✓ except in State/Aus Champs
Saddle	Dressage (including all-purpose), must be fully-mounted, used with or without a saddlecloth.			
Monkey grip		✓		✓
Horse Identification Numbers	One on each side of the bridle or saddlecloth is required and must be clearly visible. Should be worn whenever the horse is out of the stable including leading, grazing, under saddle at any time			
Bridle, black or brown only	Padding is permitted under bridles and must be discreet and applied to the underside of the bridle only			
	Snaffle	✓		optional
	Bit and bridoon (Double),	not permitted Preliminary to Elementary	optional Medium and above	optional
Nosebands, black or brown only	Cavesson, Dropped Flash, Crossed (not for YH)	One (only) Compulsory see Section 5, rule 5.11.1. Only Cavesson permitted with double		One (only) Compulsory see Section 5, rule 5.11.4.3. Only Cavesson permitted with double
False tails	Permitted, but must not contain any metal parts (except for hooks and eyelets) or added weight	✓		FEI permission for CDIs

Please read carefully		Preliminary to Advanced	FEI tests at EA events*
Additional gear	Breastplate	only with snaffle and only up to and including Medium level	X
	Foregirth	✓	✓
	Crupper	Permitted only for Ponies (but not in YH)	
	Running martingale, bandages, brushing boots, over-boots, double bridle (all levels), saddle covers, headphones	Warm-up area only	
	Side reins and lunge cavesson	Lunging only	
	Blinkers, ear plugs, nasal strips, bearing/ running/balancing reins, cheekers /bit guards, chambon/deGogue	Not permitted at all anywhere with the exception that ear plugs may be worn during prize giving	
	Ear hoods	Permitted to be worn May be checked by Gear Steward after their test, the rider <b>must</b> remove the ear hood for checking if requested	
	Nose nets – Refer to 5.15 for details	Only permitted with EADC approval and evidence to be produced at gear check	
	Back protectors	Permitted all levels	
Sponsor pocket badges Refer to EA General Regs Article 135	Max 80 cm <sup>2</sup> , only breast height	✓	✓
Sponsor saddlecloth badges Refer to EA General Regs Article 135	Max 200 cm <sup>2</sup> on each side	✓	✓
<b>Bits:</b> Refer to Section 5 for descriptions and illustrations			

\* For FEI events (CDI3\*, CDI-W, CDI-Y, CDI-P, etc), dress and saddlery will be as per FEI rules (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org))

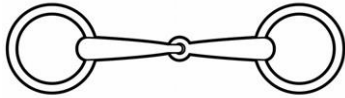
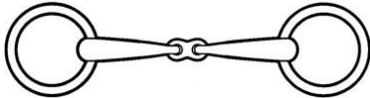
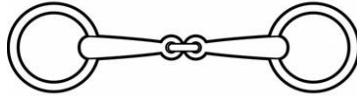
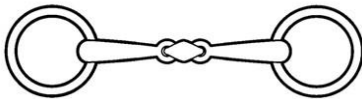
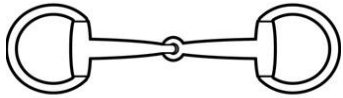
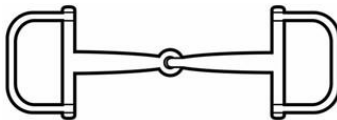
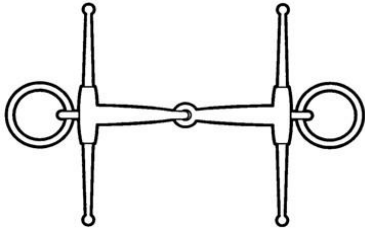
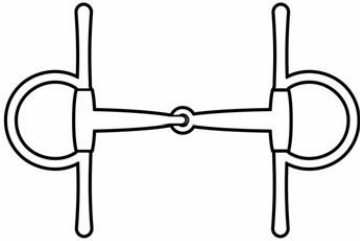
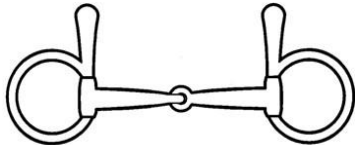
### Example of permitted dressage saddle

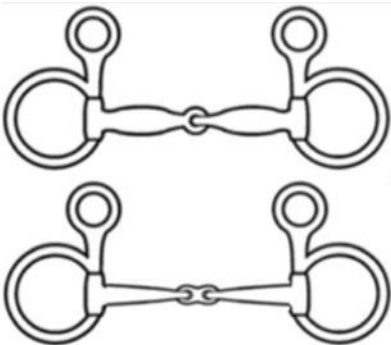
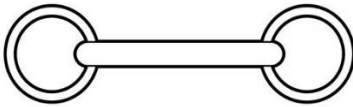
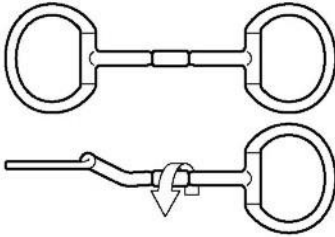

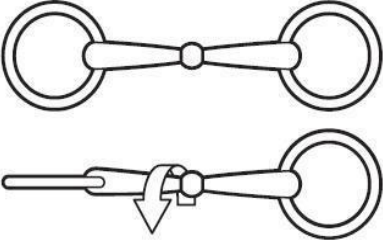
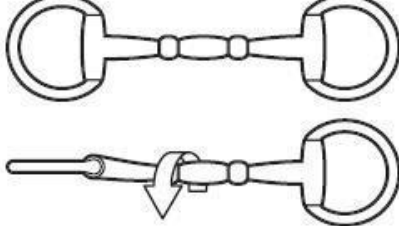
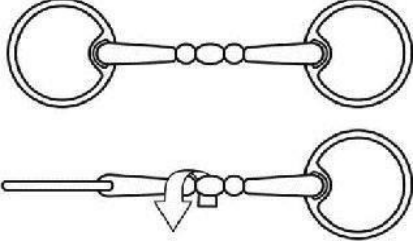


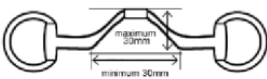
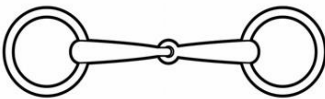
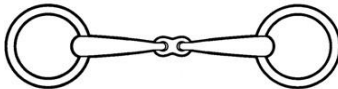
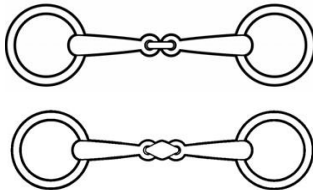

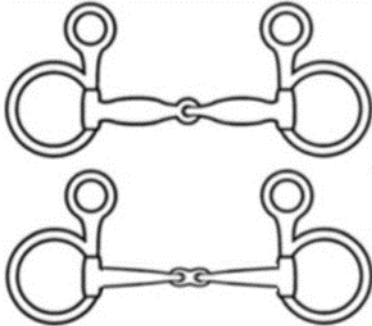
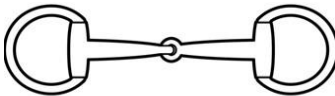
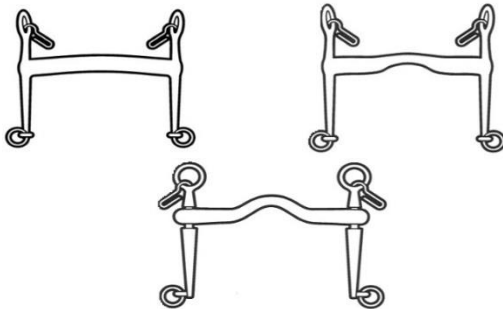


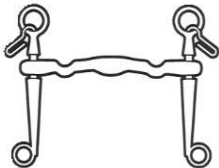
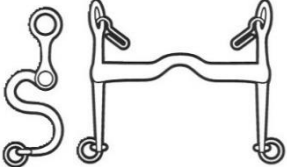
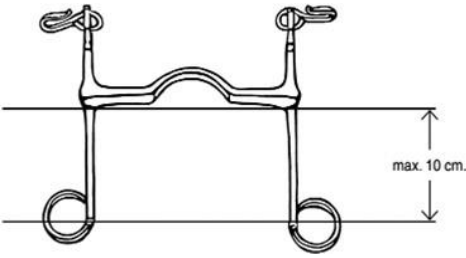
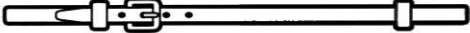





## 5.20 Permitted bits

Refer to EA equipment annex for illustration of permitted bits - <http://www.equestrian.org.au>

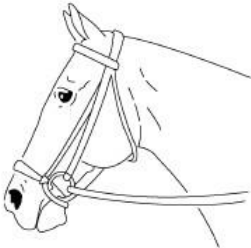
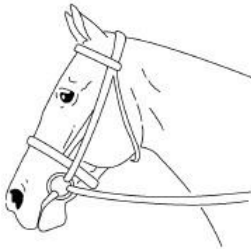
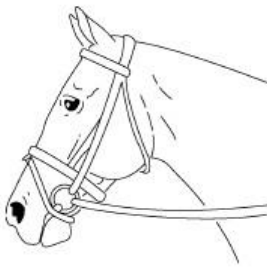
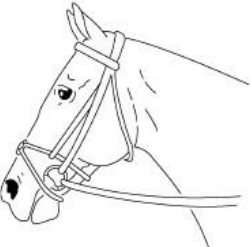


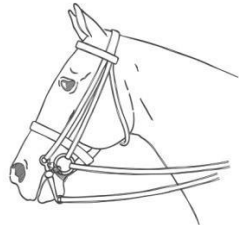
1. Loose ring snaffle	
2. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. Egg butt sides also permitted	
3. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. Egg butt sides also permitted	
4. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. Egg butt sides also permitted.	
5. Egg butt snaffle	
6. Racing snaffle (D ring)	
7. Loose- ring snaffle with cheeks (fulmer) (keepers permitted)	
8. Egg- but snaffle with cheeks (keepers permitted)	
9. Snaffle with upper cheeks only	

<p>10. Hanging cheek snaffle (single or double joint only)</p>	
<p>11. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with egg butt rings</p>	
<p>12. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece</p>	
<p>13. Snaffle with rotating middle piece</p>	
<p>14. Rotary bits single jointed</p>	
<p>15. Rotary bits double jointed</p>	
<p>16. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and lopped rings</p>	

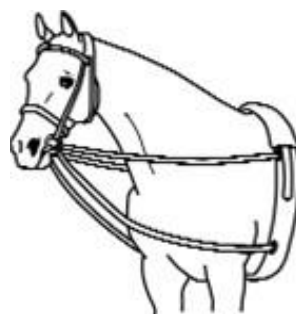
Measurement for deviation to allow tongue relief in snaffle with rotating mouthpiece	
<b>Double bridles bits - bridoons</b>	
17. Loose-ring bridoon bit	
18. Loose-ring bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece is rounded	
19. Loose-ring bridoon bits with jointed mouthpieces where the middle piece is rounded	
20. Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece	
21. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks (single and double joint only)	
22. Egg-butt bridoon bit	
<b>Curbs (curb chain hooks may be fixed)</b>	
23. Half-moon curb bit (top left) Half-moon curb bit with straight cheeks and port (top right and bottom) Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth). A curb bit with rotating lever arm also permitted (bottom)	

24.Variation of the two sets of bits above	
25.Curb bit with S-curved cheeks	
26.Length of lever arm is limited to 10cm	
27.Lip strap	
28.Leather cover for curb chain	
29.Rubber or sheepskin cover for curb chain	
30.Curb chain (metal, leather or combination) – refer to rule 5.11.2	
31.(a) Curb Chain (refer 5.11.4.2)	
31.(b) Curb Chain (refer 5.11.4.2)	

## 5.21 Permitted nosebands

1. Dropped noseband	
2. Cavesson noseband	
3. Flash noseband (Hanoverian)	
4. Crossed noseband (Grackle or Mexican)	
5. Combined noseband – no throat lash. When 5 is used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband is not permitted	
6. Micklem bridle	
Double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb with curb chain 1, 3, 4 or 6 are not permitted when a double bridle is used	

## 5.22 Lunging Gear



## 5.23 Nose Net – Refer to rule 5.15



## SECTION 6 ROLE OF OFFICIALS

All situations cannot be foreseen and in any exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the Ground Jury or the appropriate official(s) to make a decision **in a sporting spirit** adhering as closely as possible to the intent of these rules. All officials must abide by the *Equestrian Australian Code of Conduct for Officials*. Any official is authorised to:

- intervene in order to prevent any abuse of horses by riders, grooms, owners or any other person
- intervene in order to prevent any contravention of the common principles of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship

### 6.1 Ground Jury

The Ground Jury consists of the judges of the event.

The Ground Jury:

- a) must be drawn from the current list
- b) may include suitably accredited visiting overseas judges

The President of the Ground Jury should be the judge positioned at C for the highest-level competition during the event.

#### 6.1.1 The Ground Jury is responsible for:

- a) the technical judging of all individual and team competitions
- b) the allocation and verification of final placings in a competition
- c) settling all problems that may arise during the course of the event
- d) referring any case which is beyond its jurisdiction to the Appeal Committee
- e) referring any case within its jurisdiction but which it considers deserving of penalties not in the jurisdiction of the Ground Jury to the Appeal Committee
- f) referring to the Appeal Committee any matter not requiring an immediate decision for the purpose of judging the competition

Other tasks of the Ground Jury include:

- g) at the completion of judging the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by the OC of a competition must, prior to the formal posting of placings, be given the original of the score sheet which has to include riders' and horses' names, individual judge's marks, overall total, percentage and provisional placing
- h) the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by OC should quickly scan the document and when satisfied, sign and show the time of official posting of placings
- i) all members of a Ground Jury must remain at the event for at least 30 minutes after the official placings have been posted for the competitions they have judged
- j) the members of the Ground Jury must not take into account any unofficial advice or observations from persons who are not members of the Ground Jury, or anything they know beforehand of the competitors or their horses
- k) at events where a TD/Chief Steward has not been appointed it is recommended
- l) that the OC nominate an official to assist with any technicalities that may arise

### 6.2 Appeal Committee

An Appeal Committee consists of a president and 2 to 4 other persons and must be appointed for Australian and State Championships. It is responsible for:

- a) dealing with protests referred to it
- b) dealing with appeals against decisions of the Ground Jury
- c) dealing with all cases of infringements of any rules for which the Ground Jury is not responsible
- d) inviting any person deemed necessary to help them reach a decision
- e) at least one judge from the competition in which the incident occurred must be consulted

The following may **not** serve as a member of the Appeal Committee:

- f) owners of horses entered in the competition pertaining to the protest
- g) judges of the competition pertaining to the protest
- h) coaches of competitors entered in the event
- i) competitors entered in the event
- j) close relatives of those listed above
- k) Chefs d'Equipe or other officials of teams entered in the event
- l) the Technical Delegate
- m) any person with a conflict of interest

The decision of the Appeal Committee is final. Refer also to EA General Regulations Articles 150 and 160 and FEI Article (rule) 438.

### 6.3 Technical Delegate (TD)

**Refer to Annex I – Payment for Officials –** for the current per diem

A TD must be appointed for all major events including Australian Championships, State Championships and Regional Championships and is highly recommended for all Official Competitive and Participation events held at club level. Travel, accommodation and out-of-pocket expenses will be the responsibility of the OC.

The TD:

- a) must have a good knowledge of Dressage and the current Dressage rules and the EA General Regulations
- b) is to be independent from the OC and must be appointed at the beginning of the planning process for the event
- c) ideally, should not be a judge at the event but could be a reserve judge for a small competition

A TD must be appointed by:

- d) the EADC for all Australian Championships including Youth, AOR, Young Horse and Pony
- e) the SDA for all State Championships including Youth, AOR Young Horse and Pony
- f) a TD is recommended to be appointed by the OC for Regional Championships and club Official events

In relation to the appointment by the EADC, OCs must submit suggested TD names by 31st August each year for the following year's events.

#### 6.3.1 The TD is responsible for:

- a) approval of all administrative arrangements for the event from the time of appointment (no later than 6 weeks prior to the start of the event) to the end of the event
- b) approving the schedule prior to it being published
- c) inspection of the grounds and arenas and be satisfied that the technical details are in accordance with the rules
- d) assisting the Ground Jury to supervise the technical conduct of the event after indicating to the Chief Judge, when approached, that the arrangements are satisfactory
- e) instructing the OC to make any alterations to the arena or to any technical detail associated with the conduct of the event as is considered necessary in a timely manner
- f) approving the final results in instances where the Chief Judge is not available
- g) furnishing a report within 21 days after the completion of the event as follows:
  - for Australian Championships, send a copy to the EADC with a copy to the Event Director
  - for State Championships send a copy to the SDA and Event Director
  - for any other event send a copy to the OC



## 6.4 Chef d'Equipe

Where State or Australian teams are entered, a Chef d'Equipe must be appointed. This is compulsory for Australian Championships, Youth Championships, Pony Championships and State Championships.

The Chef d'Equipe is not permitted to fulfil any other official's role. Only the Chef d'Equipe may lodge a protest on behalf of the team or a team member.

The Chef d'Equipe is responsible for:

- a) managing the selected team of riders representing their state or nation
- b) confirming stabling, accommodation and travel arrangements of riders
- c) managing the communication with the travelling squad prior to arrival at the competition venue
- d) arranging a meeting of squad members to inform them of the Chef's responsibilities distributing the team uniform if applicable
- e) attending Chef d'Equipe meetings before and during the event, and conveying relevant information to riders and their appropriate coaches
- f) declaring details of the team in writing to the OC within the prescribed timeframe
- g) collection and return of Freestyle CDs (or tapes)
- h) ensuring the riders are aware of any changes in the official draw and anticipated delays in competition arenas
- i) providing a written report within 21 days to the EADC or SDA
- j) all communication with the OC, including protests on behalf of the team

## 6.5 Stewards

A steward is a trained, accredited EA or FEI official.

Wherever possible an accredited Steward should be appointed to an event.

The following categories of accredited Stewards exist:

- a) Steward General Australia Dressage
- b) FEI Stewards (levels 1,2,3) - 3 is the highest level
- c) Nationally accredited Stewards

The following additional categories of non-accredited assistants exist

- d) national candidate stewards (in training, not yet qualified and hold no official responsibility, may carry out all steward duties under the supervision of an accredited steward, may work as a non-accredited gear checker)
- e) non-accredited gear checkers may also be appointed to attend the gear check area at events to assist in the absence of an accredited steward or to assist the appointed steward at larger events. Non-accredited gear checkers hold no official capacity, will not make any decisions on their own nor interpret any rules on their own. They are fully reportable to an Accredited Steward if appointed or the Head of the Ground Jury if no accredited steward is appointed

### 6.5.1 Steward's Responsibilities

Stewards are responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses is upheld, that the rules and a fair playing field for the event are adhered to and that events are conducted safely.

**At the Gear Check Area: A trained Steward is responsible for:**

- a) checking each competitor off the draw
- b) check competition arenas set-up, safety, surface
- c) communicate with the organising committee
- d) guiding the rider on the legality of the saddlery, equipment and dress referred to in Section 5 and the current equipment annex

- e) checking the gear of each competitor for each test, either before the test or as specified in the schedule or on the notice board such as immediately after the tests is completed
- f) if the bit/bridle is in question, in which case any inspection must be done immediately after the completion of the test
  - if this inspection requires the removal of the bridle, a head collar/halter must be made available for this purpose or the horse can be taken to a safer environment such as a stable
  - any removal of equipment must be done by the rider or their agent
- g) ensuring that a competitor's gear check is completed to allow sufficient time for them to proceed to the competition arena and adhere to the time draw. If a problem arises during a gear check which may cause a delay, the competitor or their agent must be requested to re-present to the gear check immediately after their test concludes
- h) consulting with the TD or, in their absence, a member of the Ground Jury the Chief Judge if doubt exists regarding any item of saddlery or other equipment
- i) having a 1.0m and a 1.2 m gauge accessible (e.g. tube, rod, tape measure, mark on fence) to ensure compliance of competitor's whip
- j) using disposable surgical/protective gloves – one new pair for each horse – if inspecting the bridle (mouth area), checking the nose band, touching horse or spurs
- k) every consideration must be given to not disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider prior to them entering the competition area
- l) only the rider or their agent may alter any equipment the gear steward must not alter any gear. If gear is too tight, loose or incorrectly fitted, the rider or their agent must make the necessary adjustments
- m) it remains the full responsibility of the rider to comply with the equipment rules as outlined
- n) when an accredited steward has been appointed, if a rider does not have their gear checked they will incur elimination
- o) it is the responsibility of the OC to provide preferably at least one accredited Steward for an event. A volunteer may attend the gear check if an accredited Steward is not available (see rule 6.5 e)
- p) at club level if an accredited steward is appointed they should advise and supervise the volunteer gear checkers
- q) supervise warm-up areas
- r) ensure welfare of the horse is paramount
- s) the issue of yellow warning cards where warranted

**6.5.1.1** If an accredited steward is not appointed to an event a non-accredited gear checker may take on the following roles:

- a) mark each competitor off the draw as presented to the gear check area
- b) report to the head of the ground jury (C Judge) if a competitor does not present to the Gear Check area, as this will incur elimination
- c) observing the gear of each competitor for each test, either before the test or as specified in the schedule or on the notice board
- d) ensure that a competitor's leave the gear check area in sufficient time for them to proceed to the competition arena and adhere to the time draw. If a problem arises during a gear check which may cause a delay, the competitor or their agent must be requested to re-present to the gear check immediately after their test concludes
- e) consulting with the TD or accredited Gear Steward, in their absence, the Chief Judge if doubt exist regarding any item if saddlery or other equipment
- f) having a 1.0m and a 1.2m gauge accessible (e.g. tube, rod, tape measure, mark on fence) to ensure compliance of competitor's whip
- g) every consideration must be given to not disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider prior to them entering the competition area

- h) the gear checker must not alter any gear. If the gear is too tight, loose or incorrectly fitted, the rider or their agent must make the necessary adjustments Refer to Section 5 rule 5.12 for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment
- i) the gear checker must not touch the horse or rider unless under the supervision of an Accredited Steward

Refer to Section 5 rule 5.12 for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment

## 6.6 Chief Steward

A Chief Steward is to be appointed for all Australian Championships and State Championships and is highly recommended for Regional & Official Events. They are to be appointed from the current list of FEI accredited and Nationally accredited stewards. See rule 7.9 for payment of appointed Chief Stewards. Refer to Annex I – Payments for Officials - for the current per diem

Where a TD is not appointed it is the Chief Steward who will undertake many of a TD's responsibilities. In this role they are expected to supervise competition, training and warm-up areas, stables and other areas where horses are held, ridden or treated, as well as the field of play for competition. Refer further to rule 12.30 for fuller description of role.

A Chief Steward is authorised to undertake any of the following duties. However, this list is not exhaustive.

- a) arrange for gate to grounds to be unlocked or open at least 1.5 hours before competitions begin
- b) brief stewards on their duties
- c) meet judges on arrival, introduce their writers and assign to respective arenas
- d) ensure that test papers are being regularly collected from judges
- e) ensure that scoresheets are updated
- f) ensure that competitions are running to time
- g) marshal winning competitors to receive awards
- h) confirm the number of stewards required for running the event with the OC
- i) prepare steward rosters as necessary
- j) ensure that arenas are correctly set-up, that surfaces are safe and well maintained to the highest standard possible
- k) manage stabling and warm-up areas
- l) work with the OC to ensure the best possible outcomes for both competitors and horses

The Chief Steward is responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses is upheld, that the rules and a fair playing field for the event are adhered to and that the events are conducted safely. In this role they are expected to supervise competition, training and warm-up areas, stables and other areas where horses are held, ridden or treated, as well as the field of play for competitions.

Any official is authorised to:

- m) intervene in order to prevent any abuse of horses by riders, grooms, owners or any other person
- n) intervene in order to prevent any contravention of the common principals of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship

## 6.7 FEI Steward

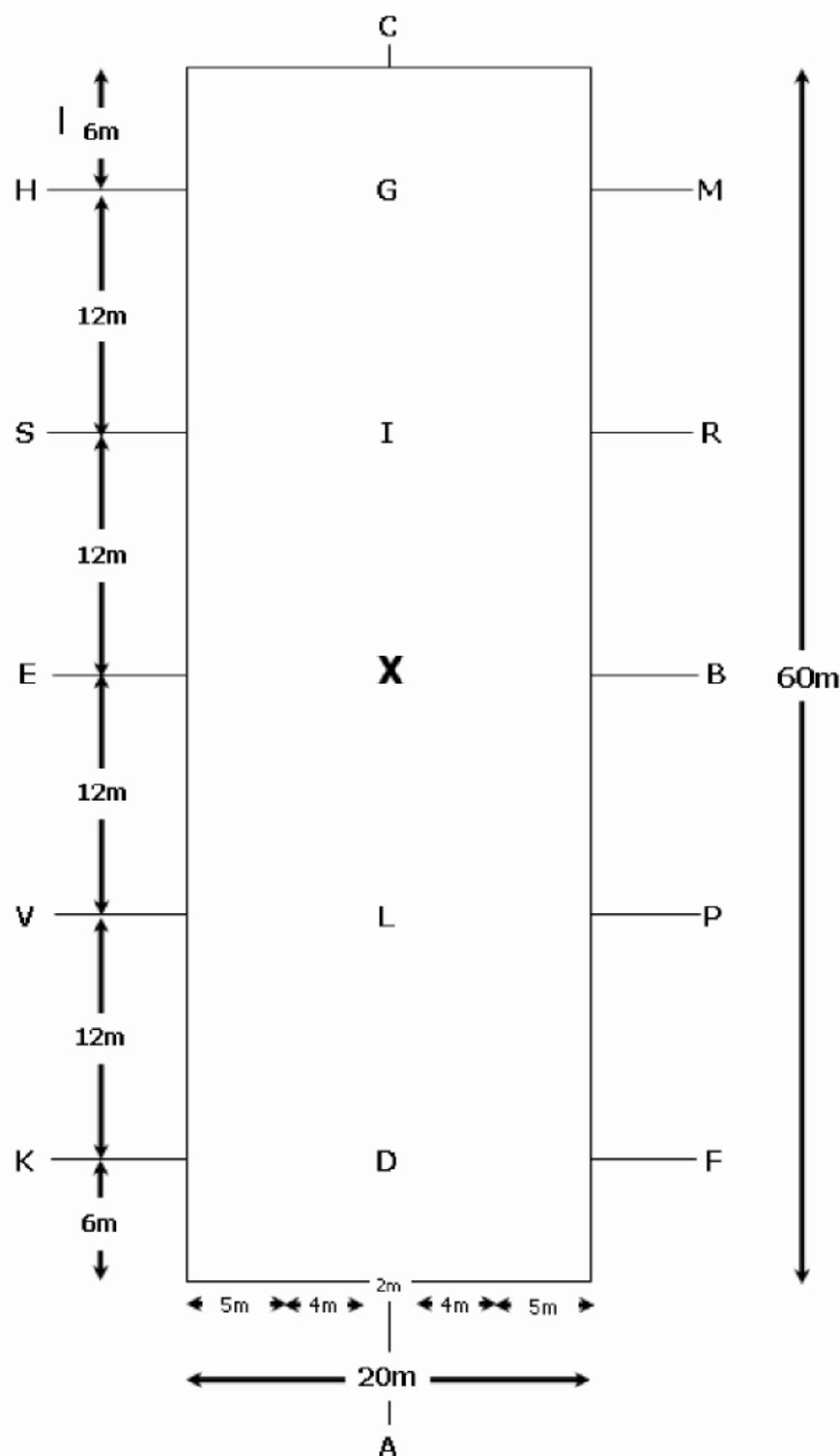
An FEI Steward is to be appointed for FEI-sanctioned events, such as CDIs. The FEI Steward for these events is to be appointed by the Dressage Steward General to ensure that all FEI Stewards are getting the opportunity to maintain their accreditation. OCs are to submit recommended names to the Dressage Steward General by the 31 August each year

## ANNEXES

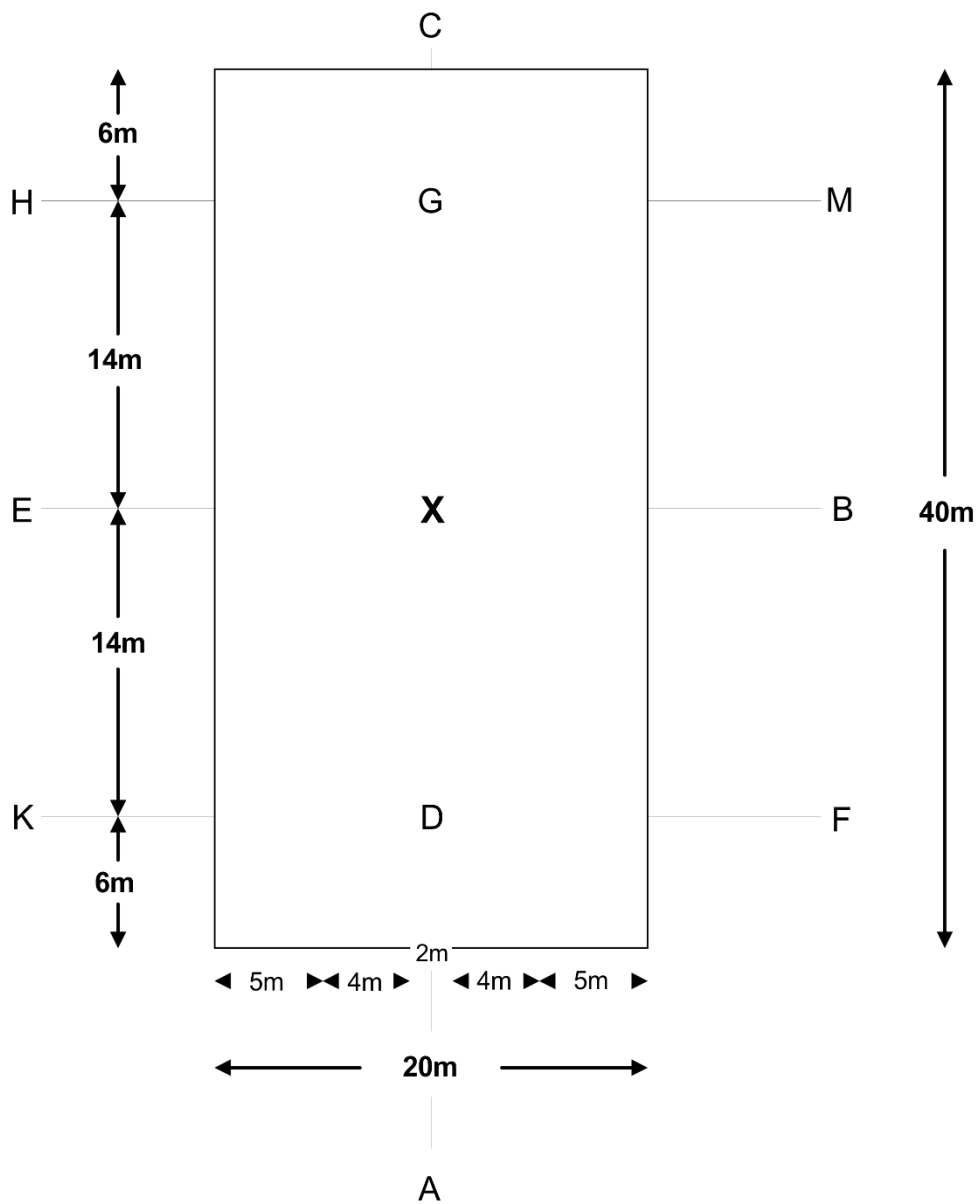
### Annex A Dressage arenas and Diagrams of the geometry of riding movements

Below are diagrams of a 60 m x 20 m and 40 m x 20 m dressage arena showing the measurements between markers and marker position. Note entrance must be minimum of 2 metres and no greater than 4 metres.

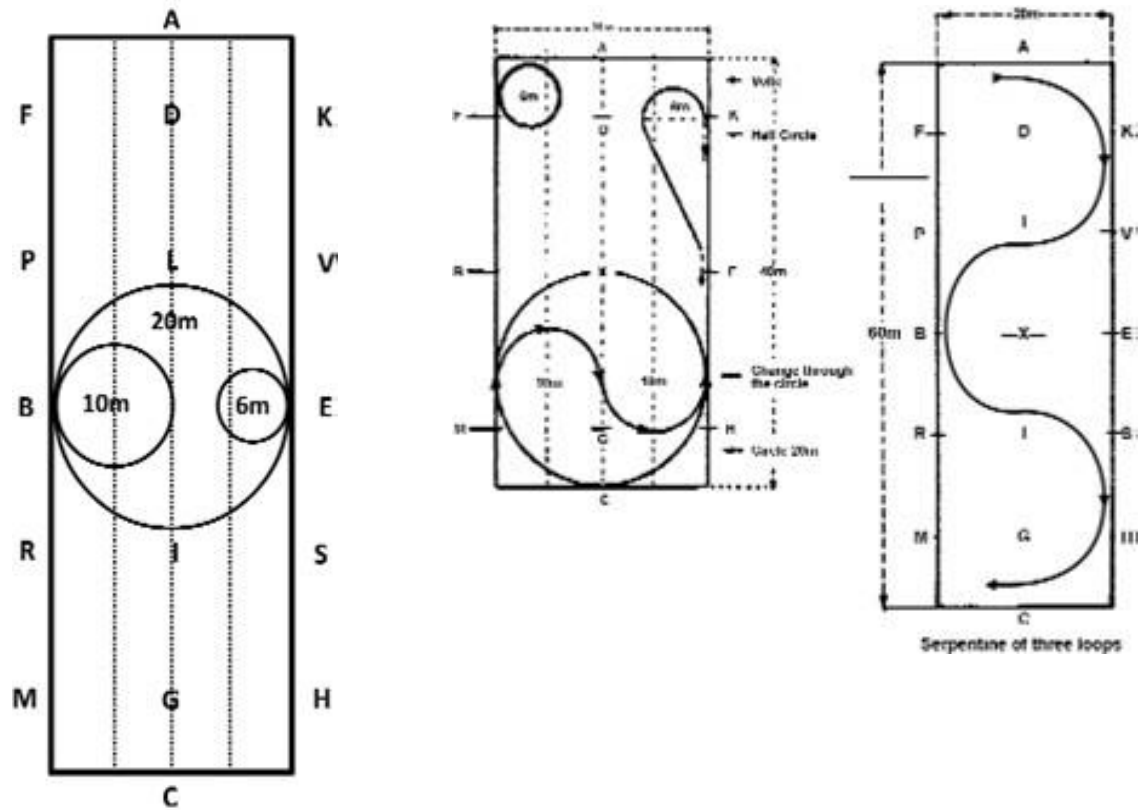
#### A 60 m x 20 m dressage arena

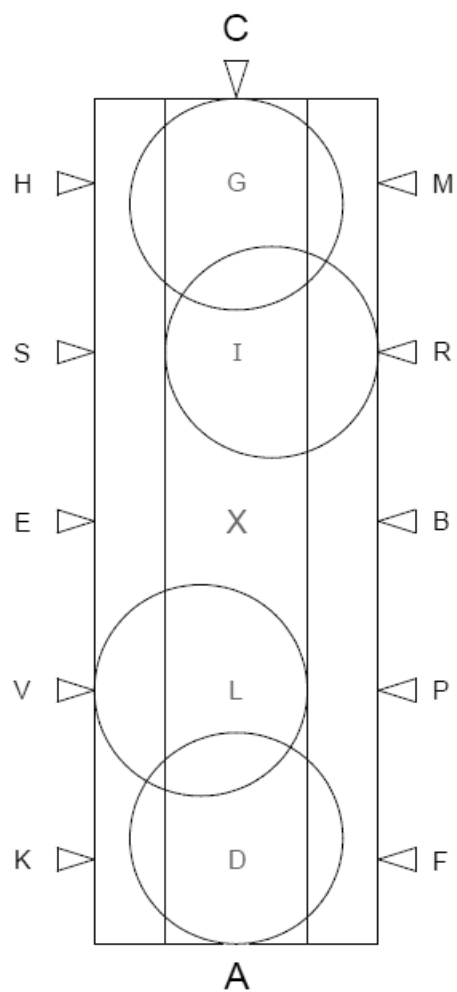


**A 40 m x 20 m dressage arena**

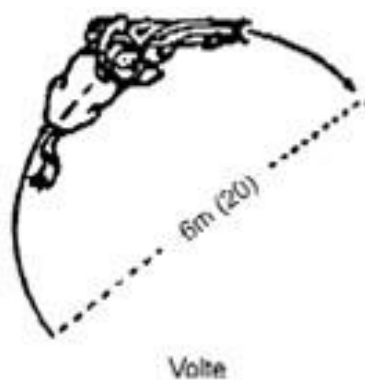


## Geometry - the different size circles





15 m circles



## **Annex B      FEI guidelines for pre- and post-competition training techniques**

(position of the horse's head in stretching)

### **1. Background**

The use of correctly executed stretching techniques, both before and after training and competition, is recognised as an important and long-established practice in almost every physical sport. In equestrian sport it is used for the on-going suppleness and health of the horse.

### **2. Permitted stretches**

Stretching principally involves the lengthening of the horse's ligaments and muscles (soft tissue) and can be done at the halt (statically) or in motion (dynamically). Riders should aim to stretch all the relevant groups of muscles within the horse's body, especially the muscles involved in hind leg locomotion, but the part that will be most visual to both stewards and the public will most likely be the horse's neck.

Neck stretches may take several different forms. 'Long, deep and round' (see diagram 1), 'low, deep and round' (see diagram 2) and 'long and low' (see diagram 3) are just three commonly used examples but there are other variations involving both longitudinal and lateral flexion which result in different neck positions.

### **3. Extreme flexion**

In assessing the position of the head carriage the steward will be mindful of each horse's natural conformation, especially in relation to native breeds or ponies, and will therefore use discretion in determining this.

Deliberate extreme flexions of the neck involving either high, low or lateral head carriages, should only be performed for very short periods. If performed for longer periods, the steward will intervene.

Movements which involve having the horse's head and neck carriage in a sustained or fixed position should only be performed for periods not exceeding approximately 10 minutes without change. Change may constitute a period of relaxation and lengthening or a movement which involves stretching the head and the neck of the horse.

Diagram 1  
**Long, deep and round**

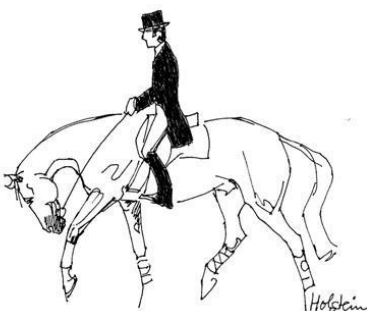


Diagram 2  
**Low, deep and round**

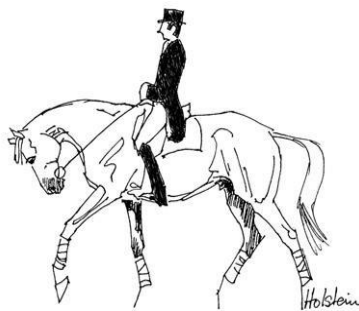
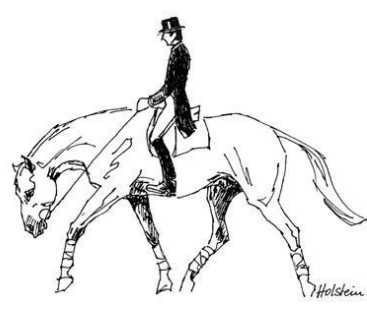


Diagram 3  
**Long and low**





It is the steward's responsibility to ensure that riders respect the above procedure and intervene if required.

#### **4. Variation of stretches and neck positions**

Stretches of the horse's neck may be specific and appropriate to each horse and equestrian discipline, but no single neck position should be maintained which may lead to tiredness or stress.

#### **5. Method of achieving stretches**

It is imperative that stretching should be executed by unforced and non-aggressive means. By 'unforced' it is meant that the rider is not permitted to use rough, or abrupt aids or apply constant unyielding pressure on the horse's mouth through a fixed arm and hand position. It is the responsibility of the steward to intervene if these requirements are not respected.

#### **6. Action by the steward in the case of incorrect flexion of the head and neck**

The steward will intervene should they observe:

- neck stretching achieved through forced, or aggressive riding
- the use of extreme flexion if it does not comply with the above
- a rider deliberately maintaining a sustained fixed head and neck carriage longer than approximately 10 minutes
- in cases when the horse is in a state of general stress and/or fatigue

The steward may also ask the rider to walk for a certain period in situations where the rider's stress may cause undesired riding.

#### **7. Maximum duration of pre-competition warm-up and post-competition cool down periods**

Only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Chief Steward, may a training session exceed one hour. The training session must include a number of relaxation periods.

Riding the horse at the walk whether prior to, or following the training session, is not considered to be part of the one hour training session. There should be at least one-hour break between any training/warm-up periods.

Repetition movements carried out in the practice arena, following a rider's performance in the competition arena, may not exceed a period of 10 minutes.

#### **8. Exercise / Training arena**

All training sessions, including pre-competition warm-up, may only be performed in the official training arena while under the supervision of stewards. Use of a training arena outside the official training period, and/or in an unsupervised arena, may at the discretion of the Ground Jury lead to the rider's disqualification.

During competition preparation periods, and the duration of the competition itself, the Chief Steward must be present in the training arena, or be in a position to observe the training arena at events where numerous training arenas are in use.

If the Chief Steward is unable to be present himself, it is their responsibility to ensure that a steward with the required experience and knowledge is appointed to supervise the training arena.

## Annex C Hot weather policy

### C.1 Horses

Horses exercising and competing in hot environmental conditions can be affected by heat stress. When environmental heat conditions are adverse, exercising horses require appropriate cooling measures to safeguard their welfare. The primary responsibility for the welfare of horses competing and exercising during hot weather lies with the rider of the horse. Riders must always take action to prevent, manage and treat heat stress in their horses. Event organisers are responsible for providing adequate facilities and information that riders need to safeguard the welfare of horses. Access to ice and cooling water during competition is a compulsory requirement that arises under certain environmental conditions.

To assess the risk of heat stress in horses, the FEI uses the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Index. WBGT information is published on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website under their Thermal Comfort Observations webpages (see [http://www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal\\_stress/](http://www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal_stress/).) WBGT information is published on the BOM website for each Australian state and territory with regional indices.

**Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) from Temperature and Relative Humidity**

	Temperature (°C)																																	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50			
Relative Humidity (%)	0	15	16	16	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	31	31	32	32		
	5	16	16	17	18	18	19	19	20	21	21	22	22	23	24	24	25	26	26	27	27	28	29	29	30	31	31	32	33	33	34	35		
	10	16	17	17	18	19	19	20	21	21	22	23	23	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	30	31	32	32	33	34	35	36	36	37		
	15	17	17	18	19	19	20	21	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	33	34	35	36	37	38	39			
	20	17	18	18	19	20	21	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	32	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					
	25	18	18	19	20	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39							
	30	18	19	20	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	39									
	35	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39										
	40	19	20	21	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39											
	45	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	36	37	38													
	50	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	36	37	39														
	55	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	36	37	38															
	60	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	38																
	65	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	36	37	38																	
	70	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	36	38	39																	
	75	22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	39																		
80	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	36	37	38																				
85	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	37	38	39																				
90	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	35	36	37	39																					
95	24	25	26	27	29	30	31	33	34	35	37	38																						
100	24	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	35	36	38	39																						
WBGT > 40																																		

Note: This table is compiled from an approximate formula which only depends on temperature and humidity. The formula is valid for full sunshine and a light wind

WBGT	Example °C: RH%	Recommendations for competitions	Required cooling Facilities/methods
<28	30:45	No changes needed to the competition format or timing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses.</li> <li>2. Shaded areas/shelters.</li> <li>3. <b>Not:</b> each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.</li> </ol>
28–30	29:60	Some precautions to reduce heat load on horses will be necessary such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use shaded areas for competition and warm up areas</li> <li>• avoid non-grassed riding surfaces</li> <li>• reduction in overall effort (shorter distance, less jumping efforts, etc)</li> <li>• <u>competition PA announcements</u></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses.</li> <li>2. Shaded areas/shelters.</li> <li>3. <b>NOTE:</b> each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.</li> </ol>
30–33	30:65	Additional precautions to those above to limit overheating of horses will be necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions <b><i>should</i></b> be held in cooler parts of the day (between 7 am – 11 am and/or after 4 pm).</li> <li>• Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces</li> <li>• Competition PA announcements.</li> <li>• CCI ** and CCI ***Eventing horses require <b>AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses.</li> <li>2. Shaded areas/shelters.</li> <li>3. <b>Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR CCI **/** EVENTING HORSES</b></li> <li>4. <b>NOTE:</b> each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.</li> </ol>

>33	32:60	<p>These environmental conditions are very high risk and are probably not compatible with safe competition.</p> <p><b>Further veterinary consultation/advice will be required before continuing.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions or the 'high exertion phase' of the event <b>must</b> be held during cooler parts of the day (between 7 am –11.00 am and/or after 4 pm).</li> <li><b>Higher level competitions should be run in the coolest part of the day.</b></li> <li>Schedule the most demanding competition/competition phases when it is cooler.</li> <li>The lower level competitions generally make lower demands on horses.</li> <li>Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces</li> <li><b>Competition PA announcements – frequently repeated. (See below)</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses.</li> <li>Shaded areas/shelters.</li> <li><b>Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR <u>ALL HORSES</u></b></li> </ol> <p>Additional requirements for eventing competitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A shaded area with misting fans</li> <li>A veterinarian to monitor horses.</li> </ol>
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## C.2 Competition PA heat risk announcements

- explanations of the 6-minute threshold (see Rule C3.2 below) in any demanding exercise (not just Cross Country exercise), as being pivotal in heat overload
- encouraging riders to pre-cool their horses by hosing them before riding to place lower demands on the horse's cooling system while they work
- encouraging abbreviated warm-ups to lighten the load on the horses' cooling systems
- explanations of aggressive cooling until the horse's temperature returns to 38°C
- encouraging the use of ice and a shaded area with misting fans, to cool horses after exercise
- encouraging hydration of every horse with cool clean water, salt and electrolytes
- encourage riders to 'house' resting horses in shaded areas and/or on grass surfaces

## C.3 Key principles

Any organiser of an event to be held in hot weather must understand the following key principles:

### C.3.1 Humidity and heat – a dangerous mix causing heat overload

Combinations of high heat and humidity impact severely on a horse's main cooling mechanism of sweating and evaporation. A heat stressed horse can have multiple organ failure; it may collapse and die.

Unless cooling facilities equivalent to FEI standard are in place at an event, the FEI strongly recommends that riding activities be suspended when the WBGT Index reaches or exceeds 32–33°C.

### C.3.2 The 6-minute threshold – heat overload for horses working in the heat

Where the WBGT Index is high, horses that have just performed are at risk of suffering a dangerous temperature hike. When the WBGT Index is high, 6.0–6.5 minutes of continuous hard work (i.e. the 6-minute threshold) is pivotal in causing heat stress. Dressage horses do work extremely hard in both the warm up and in their tests. For showjumpers the effort is generally under 6 minutes, however for dressage and cross country, horses are at risk in heat because the effort will exceed 6 minutes.

Aggressive cooling (see below) should be used after a performance for a dressage horse when the WBGT is high, just as for horses coming off a cross country course.

### C.3.3 Wind flow (breeze) dramatically reduces heat overload

Wind flow significantly increases evaporation. The primary cooling mechanism for both horses and humans is evaporation of sweat. On hot days, events should be scheduled early or late, when better wind flow is likely and outside of peak temperature periods.

Horses *standing* in the sun without shade or wind flow in temperatures above 33°C start to accumulate heat. Horses *working* in the sun without wind flow at or above 33 °C are at risk.

### C.3.4 Surface area to body mass (SA:BM)

As body mass increases, relative surface area decreases. An 80 kg rider will have a SA:BM = 1:40, but a 500 kg horse has a SA:BM = 1:100. Surface area to body mass ratio impacts negatively on a horse's ability to shed heat through evaporation. Greater muscling in some horses, such as dressage horses, lowers their SA:BM ratios and makes them less effective than other equine athletes at shedding heat.

### C.3.5 Arena and surfaces

Shaded and grassy surfaces do not attract and retain as much heat as other surfaces that are soil-based or exposed to full sunlight. Horses restrained next to vehicles/floats/trucks parked on black asphalt, road base or sand are more susceptible to heat stress on hot days.

### C.3.6 Event planning

Event organisers **must** conduct a risk management assessment if competitions/training days are to be held during hot conditions. Decisions and actions that may be considered include:

- alteration of time of day or time of year at which an event is run
- reduction in overall effort (shorter distance, less jumping efforts, etc)
- education of riders, grooms and officials
- provision of shade
- provision of adequate means of cooling horses, including ice, fans, hoses, water baths, etc
- provision of veterinary services for heat-stressed horses.

## Appendix A

### Aggressive cooling measures

Aggressive cooling should be used where a horse's temperature is elevated after any demanding exercise such as dressage or cross country and when the WBGT Index is high.

Cooling includes use of high volumes of cold/ice water application, ice boots, repeatedly applying bucketfuls of iced/cold water, and repeatedly hosing and immediately scraping water as it warms on the horse's body.

Key areas to apply cooling/iced water to are the jugular veins (underside of neck), the femoral arteries (between hind legs) and the heat sink (lower abdomen). Aggressive cooling should continue until water is no longer heating up on the horse, or until the horse's temperature is back to a healthy 38° C (rather than heading up to a dangerous 40° C).

## Appendix B

### Anhydrosis in horses

This condition is also called drycoatedness, or 'the puffs'. Only two species, humans and horses, rely on evaporating sweat to shed excess heat. Horses naturally have a very efficient cooling mechanism as part of their thermoregulation system.

Hindgut fluid reserve acts as a 'heat sink' (the hind gut stores 60 litres of fluid where some heat can be diverted to reduce damage to vital organs).

During humid weather when the relative humidity exceeds 85%, the efficiency of sweat evaporation from the skin decreases by 5% for every 2% increases in relative humidity, which greatly increases the risk of heat stress.

Some people think that when a horse's coat is dry or has only patchy sweat when worked on a hot day, this indicates that the horse is handling the heat. In fact, a dry coat is a cause for great concern as the horse could be losing the ability to sweat (anhidrosis), indicating a faulty or a completely broken cooling system. As a result the horse may suffer heat stroke and collapse.

Unlike dogs, horses are not designed to pant. When a horse pants or 'puffs' this means it is suffering heat stress and requires immediate cooling.

## Appendix C

### Cooling systems in horses

- **Evaporation and convection:** This makes up for 60% of cooling. Horses shed excess heat through sweating and having air moving over them. Horses standing in the sun without shade or wind flow (breeze) in temperatures above 33° C, start to accumulate heat.
- **Radiation and conduction:** Once the air temperature is over 33°C, even a horse at rest needs to shed heat. A horse that has a large size and mass finds this harder than smaller animals, or even a lighter framed horse.
- **Respiratory loss:** This makes up 15% of cooling for horses during exercise.

## Appendix D

### The FEI standard cooling facilities

To enable aggressive cooling to be carried out when the WBGT exceeds 32–33 °C, the following should be available at an event:

- multiple hoses and wash bays for cooling/hosing
- large bins (ideally wheelie bins) full of water and bags of ice for aggressive cooling
- free ice ad lib, an abundance of bags of ice for ice boots or for riders to add to water to cool horses after exercise
- a shaded area with misting fans
- an equine veterinarian

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the information and advice that has been provided by veterinarians and doctors in the writing of this paper. Thank you to equine veterinarians:

- Dr Nigel Nichols (B VSc)
- Dr John Kohnke (B VSc)
- Dr Warwick Vale (BSc BVMS (Hons II)) and
- Dr Margot Seneque (B VSc, Hons, Grad Dip Animal Chiro).

Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

## References

- 1) *The effect of thermal environmental conditions on the health and performance of horses*, Dr David J Marlin (BSc, PhD), 2007
- 2) *Comfort Index: Impact of heat and humidity on competition horses*, Liz Owens for EADC, 2011
- 3) *Helping horses to handle the heat*, Dr John Kohnke (B.VSc)
- 4) *Better Coaching, Advanced Coaches' Manual*, Frank S Pyke, Australian Sports Commission

The impact of heat and humidity on dressage horses has been poorly understood by many in the industry in Australia. There have been instances of horses dying and/or requiring intensive veterinary care following dressage competition or clinics in such conditions in Australia.

Heat overload (heat stress or even heat stroke) occurs when an individual cannot shed sufficient heat to maintain a normal core temperature (38°C for a horse and 38°C for a person). Definitive research on this subject by Dr David Marlin recommends:

*'The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast is based on the temperature **in the shade**. The temperature for horses and riders warming up and competing **in the sun**, and for judges in cars, will be **much** higher than this.*

## **Annex D      Arena familiarisation and altered circumstances at EA events**

These are guidelines for competition organisers and judges (refer also to rule 3.7). The safety of horse and rider is paramount at all times.

### **Arena familiarisation**

- where possible, allow competitors a designated time to ride around and in the competition arenas on the day of the competition, if this has not been possible on the previous day
- if conditions are suitable, time may also be allocated during the day, but this will depend on the organisers and venue requirements
- OCs should specify the arena familiarisation arrangements in the competition draw and also specify at what pace horses are permitted to travel. For example, *Arenas will be available from 7.30 am to 8.15 am on the day of the competition for familiarisation. Please make sure that you ride only at (pace to be noted here by OC if there is a restriction)*
- warm-up areas should be supervised by a steward

### **Altered circumstances**

- if the wind becomes strong enough to blow down the arena surrounds, it is preferable to leave it on the ground, so that horses are not accidentally frightened when the arena blows down again. Obviously the conditions may be different for some riders in the competition but common sense should prevail
- if arenas or arena surrounds are covered in water either at the start of the day, or at some point later in the day, please arrange for riders to commence their tests from inside the arena. This gives the horses the opportunity to become familiar with the varying conditions in the arena
- some arenas have insufficient surrounding space and unsuitable footing for horses to work safely and comfortably around the outside before entering the test. In these circumstances please make sure that riders commence their tests from inside the arena

### **Protocol for entering the arena in exceptional circumstances**

If the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, the Chief Judge, in consultation with the OC, will make a decision as to whether competitors will be permitted to commence their test from inside the arena. Such a decision *must* be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition or, in the case of a sudden downpour, as soon as possible. Please note that this is Judge/OC/TD only decision.

If such approval is given the competitor is to enter the arena and when the bell has been rung (e.g. car horn sounded) the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once the rider is on the centre line.

The next horse in the competition can enter the arena as soon as the previous horse has left the arena.



## Annex E Elimination and penalties

The following table is provided for judges as a quick reference for incidents that result in elimination or where a competitor 'may' be eliminated or given a penalty.

Will entail elimination	
1.3	Excessive use of whip or spur, bit or hands.
1.3.2	Unable to fulfil the requirements of the level and the test and/or shows abusive riding. No appeal against this decision
1.4	Fresh blood in the test – no appeal
1.4.1 & 5.17	Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not is strictly forbidden at an event
3.10	Resistance for 20 seconds or more
3.10	Resistance that is a safety issue/dangerous to horse and/or rider, can be less than 20 seconds
3.10	Leaving the arena with all 4 feet during a test between beginning and end of a test (except 4yoYH State Qualifiers)
3.11	Unauthorised assistance
3.11	Horses may not be attached to a lead line in or around the competition arena – this is considered outside assistance
3.12	Riding in or entering competition arena without permission
3.15	Holding reins in one hand while using whip with other hand in competition arena
3.17, 5.1	Third error of course
3.18	Marked lameness – no appeal
3.7	Not entering the arena after a further 45 seconds (total 90 seconds) after the bell has rung (first penalty of – 2 pts for not entering after 45 sec)
3.8	Leaving the arena unmounted
3.8	Fall of horse and/or rider between entry at A and the final salute
4.2	Riding out of order in the draw without the OC or C Judge approval
4.4	Failure to have a gear check
5.0	Riding with non permitted equipment or not wearing required equipment
5.2	Safety helmet must be worn and have harness secured. See option for FEI level rule 5.1.4
5.10	Wearing a western saddle will entail elimination
5.11	Wearing a bitless bridle
5.12	False tails with metal in them
5.12	Blinkers, ear plugs, nasal strips, nose nets (without approval refer to Rule 5.15), bit guards, bearing, running or balancing reins, chambon, deGogue etc, not permitted at event
5.12	Decoration on the horse including mane/tail with items such as ribbons, flowers, glitter
5.12, 5.16, 5.17	Permitted in warm-up and exercise area but NOT into competition area – running martingale (with snaffle bridle), removable over boots (Easy Boot, Hoof Boot, Mac Boot), saddle covers, headphones or similar devices
5.13 3.12.1	Lunging with more than one lunge rein, lunging with rider in the saddle, long reining. Lunging outside of designated area, lunging with lunge rein attached to the curb bit
5.10.1	Wearing lock-in stirrups, stirrup tie downs or magnetised stirrup irons
5.11.1	Wearing a one eared bridle
5.11.1	Not wearing a noseband
5.11.1	Wearing more than one noseband
5.3	Unsafe footwear is worn
5.5	Wearing spurs that point inwards, tip points upwards or incorrect spurs. (swan neck spurs
5.5	Pony riders wearing spurs that are longer than 4 cm
5.6	Carrying a whip that exceeds the required length – 1 m for ponies or 1.2 m for horses
5.6	Carrying a whip for more than 3 movements in FEI comps at State/Australian C'Ships
5.11.1	Wearing non approved noseband –see rule 5.19
5.11.1.3	Wrapping of the bit with any material
5.11.1.3	Wearing Incorrect sizes or types of bits
5.11.2.3	Not wearing cavesson noseband with double bridle (no lower strap to be worn)
8.1	Failure to enter arena after 90 sec freestyle
9.1.2	Not wearing safety helmet in ALL 4-, 5-, 6-year-old Young Horse competitions

May Entail Elimination	
1.1	Breach of rules as outlined in Rule 1.1
3.12.1d	Non-compliance with lunging in a designated area
3.14	Calling test – caller can read or 2 times only

Penalties will be Incurred		
Rule	Points deducted	
3.7	2 per judge	Exceeding 45 seconds to enter the arena
3.7	2 per judge	Failure to salute at the entry halt or final halt
3.7	2 per judge	Entering the arena before the bell is sounded
3.17	2 per judge	1st error of course
3.17	4 per judge	2nd error of course
4.8.5h	2 per judge	Enters competition area not wearing correct identification numbers
5.1, 5.2 5.7, 5.8	2 per judge	Incorrect dress where a penalty is provided for
5.4	2 per judge	Wearing gaiters in FEI-level competitions
5.6	2 per judge	FEI-level comps at Australian and State C'Ships - Entering the space around the arena carrying a whip
5.6	2 per judge	FEI -level Comps at Australian and State Championships – Entering the arena carrying a whip
5.10	2 per judge	Saddle or bridle not black or brown
5.10.1	2 per judge	Stirrups not black or silver or same colour as rider's boots
5.11	2 per judge	Fleece or other visible padding on the upper side of bridle
5.12, 5.17	2 per judge	Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages in the space around the arena
5.12	2 per judge	Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages if worn in the arena
8.1	0.5% per judge	Not giving the signal for the music to start within 45 seconds of the bell
8.1	0.5% per judge	Entering the arena after 30 seconds of music
8.1	0.5% per judge	If the rider enters the arena clearly late
8.1	0.5% per judge	If the test is longer or shorter than stipulated
9.1	0.5%	1st error Young Horse
9.1	1.0%	2nd error Young Horse
9.1	2 per judge	4-year-old YH competition – if horse leaves arena with all 4 feet
9.1.2	- 2pts 0.1	Carrying a whip in the space around the arena at Australian YH Championships in 5, 6 and 7 year-old competition. To be deducted after score has been multiplied by 2 for a score out of 100

#### Deduction from Marks in Movements

- Holding reins in one hand – see 3.15.1
- Use of Voice – 3.16
- Tongue – whenever seen

## **Annex F      Notes for dressage competitors**

At some stage every rider has had to compete for the first time. This is a step-by-step document that follows the order of preparation for both you and your horse. The majority of the information is procedure rather than rules. You should have a rule book handy at all times whilst competing.

There are various rules and sections from the EA Dressage rules referred to in this document. This document *must* be read in conjunction with the rules and is not intended to replace the rules.

Please make sure that you have read and are familiar with the EA Competitor's Code of Conduct.

### **F.1      Setting goals**

A lot of riders go to trainers with the expectation of becoming an Olympian or at least being able to ride like one. There is nothing wrong with being ambitious. However, with the help of your trainer you should set **achievable** short-term goals.

In this case, an achievable goal is that you are going to prepare for your first competition and ride at least one but hopefully two tests. To achieve this goal you might:

- a) set a time-frame of about two/three months in order to work towards that goal
- b) find a local competition where you feel within your comfort zone
- c) enter a test that suits your level of training and competency
- d) try to time your competition to coincide with training or practice days at the venue where you will be competing

### **F.2      Welfare of the horse**

Be aware of the EA's requirement for the welfare of the horse (refer to Section 1).

### **F.3      Membership/Registration requirements**

- a) refer to the EA General Regulations for membership requirements
- b) obtain an entry form for the competition you feel is appropriate
- c) the entry form will point out the conditions of entry which are fairly standard but sometimes may have some local rules

### **F.4      Entries**

- a) refer to Section 4 for information about entries
- b) keep a copy of your entry in order that you can refer back to it if necessary

### **F.5      Verifying which Preparatory and Freestyle tests apply**

There are different versions of Preparatory tests and Freestyles used throughout Australia. Therefore, you should obtain from the organisers of the event a copy of the test you have entered, including time permitted.

### **F.6      Learning the test**

Refer to the EA rule book for the diagram of the arenas. If a caller is used, you must still know the test. Refer to the EA rules for information.

## **F.7 Pre-Competition requirements**

Important paperwork required includes:

- a) EA Dressage Rules and test sheet which you should read. It is your responsibility to know the rules
- b) horse registration papers, if applicable
- c) the time draw from the event organiser
- d) conditions of entry for the local event and
- e) copy of entries
- f) check that your dress and the horse's equipment comply with the rules as the legality and use of some equipment is restricted to specific areas (see Section 5)

## **F.8 Transport requirements**

- a) do not leave it until the day of competition to see if your horse will load
- b) do you need to borrow a horse trailer? If so, try and arrange to have a practice run to the event venue
- c) is your vehicle legally able to tow the trailer?

## **F.9 Competition day**

- a) leave yourself plenty of time to arrive and be at the venue before you ride
- b) on arrival report to the event office and obtain your identification number if applicable
- c) check if there are any scratchings/withdrawals.
- d) if arenas are already going, are they running to time?
- e) check location of gear check area
- f) check location of your competition area, your warm-up and exercise areas
- g) locate the area set aside for lunging, if required
- h) keep hydrated at all times

## **F.10 Warm-up techniques**

For further information regarding warm-up techniques, please refer to Annex B and FEI Hyperflexion Guidelines, which is available on the FEI website [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

### **F.10.1 Preparation and mounting**

- a) only the nominated rider can ride a horse at an event, with the exception of a groom who, when mounted, may walk on a comfortable long rein
- b) riders must be neatly dressed at all times when mounted. It is best that once you mount the horse you are correctly attired (see Section 5), with the exception of a competition jacket
- c) once you have finished your final warm-up go straight to the competition area via the Gear Steward

### **F.10.2 Etiquette for the warm-up arena**

As there are many horses warming up in a restricted area it is important that all riders have knowledge of the etiquette required in group riding. This ensures safe riding and achieves harmony in busy areas.

- a) safety is paramount and a collision should be avoided at all times
- b) before entering the warm-up area make sure the gateway and immediate track are clear
- c) riders should pass left shoulder to left shoulder when on the outside track
- d) when not on the outside track, e.g. on a diagonal line, riders should give way to horses on their left
- e) the more progressive gait has priority on the track (e.g. horses trotting should give way to horses cantering)
- f) a halt should not be on the track

- g) walking should not be on the track and does not have right of way
- h) trot has priority over walk
- i) canter has priority over trot
- j) lateral work has priority over **all** paces
- k) when circling, anticipate your return to the track so as to not stop the flow of other riders
- l) mounting, dismounting and gear adjustment should be done off the track
- m) consideration should be given to behaviour of other horses in the arena that may upset your horse
- n) it may be necessary to leave the area if your horse is upsetting others
- o) if a horse is upsetting the majority, an official should be sought with a view to requesting that horse's removal for safety's sake
- p) be aware of stallions wearing green stallion discs

### **F.10.3 Gear check**

Section 5 refers to the areas in which certain gear is allowable. Be familiar with these rules. Report to the gear check area 10 to 15 minutes before your test. Gear check is required before each test.

### **F.11 Entering the competition area**

Care must be taken to get no closer than 15 m, if possible, to the competition arena (as defined in Section 3) whilst there is a competitor in that arena.

### **F.12 Reporting to the judge and riding the test**

The time draw allocates you a time for riding. You cannot be forced to ride before this time. However, if the horse prior to you is scratched and you are ready to ride, consideration should be given to approaching the judge.

By presenting to the judge, even if you are early, you are indicating that you are ready to ride. Therefore, if you are not ready to enter the arena immediately, wait away from the competition area until such time as you are ready, or your start time arrives. The reason for this is to allow all competitors equal warm-up time around the arena, therefore, not benefiting any combination.

#### **F.12.1 Reporting to the judge**

- a) if Horse Identification numbers have been issued there is no need to stop and talk to the judge; simply ride past each judge ensuring that your Horse Identification number can be clearly seen
- b) if you have a medical problem that restricts your hearing let the judge know so that they can make a clear indication when to start the test
- c) if Horse Identification numbers are not issued, once the horse before you leave the arena, progress to the Chief Judge at C and await instructions
- d) a judge's instruction may be 'I have a bell' or 'I will ring the bell and hold my hand out the window' to let you know when to enter the arena
- e) if you do not have a Horse Identification number make sure all judges know your name and the name of your horse
- f) once you have given this, recommence warming up around the arena
- g) once the judge rings the bell you have 45 seconds to enter the arena. The penalty is 2 marks per judge if this exceeded. If you are not sure if you heard the bell, circle again and re-present to the Chief Judge
- h) entering the arena before the bell may entail a penalty of 2 points per judge

#### **F.12.2 Riding the test**

- a) at the salute competitors must take the reins in one hand. A whip may be held in either hand at the salute
- b) the requirement is to only salute the Judge at C
- c) salute, then pick up the reins and continue when ready
- d) only at the salute at the beginning and end of a test and when exiting the arena may the reins be held in one hand (except for Freestyles as part of the degree of difficulty)
- e) in Preliminary and Novice tests a rider has the option of doing sitting or rising trot
- f) in all higher tests, trot work is executed sitting unless otherwise stated
- g) see Section 2 for the rules on how to perform a movement
- h) if riders elect to retire before the completion of a test, the protocol is to raise a hand to the judge at C (if safe to do so) indicating retirement and to leave the arena immediately

#### **F.13 Elimination and penalties**

Refer to Section 3 and Annex E for information on riding the test and the various penalties for errors of course and other types of penalties, including elimination.

#### **F.14 Callers and video operators**

- a) callers should stand with their back to the wind so riders can hear them. This can be at either E or B
- b) it is advisable for riders to have a predetermined subtle signal to give to their callers if they need the movement to be re-called
- c) riders must not speak to their callers, but the rules permit the repeating once only of the calling of a movement
- d) calling with too loud a voice should be avoided
- e) videoing from the centre line at A gives you the reverse of the judge's point of view
- f) any recording or camera equipment and operators must be at least 10 m from the judge's car and not restrict the judge's view

#### **F.15 After the competition**

- a) Should an error be suspected by the organising committee or scorer prior to the posting of scores, consultation with the appropriate judge to confirm should occur.
- b) once the placings are posted for the test you rode you can pick up your test sheets
- c) check that there is a point in each box. If you are unsure of the result you can check the adding up
- d) if a protest is to be lodged it must be within 30 minutes of the posting of the placings
- e) officials and competitors need to abide by the Codes of Conduct as contained in the EA Member Protection Policy (located on the EA website  
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Equestrian%20Australia%20Member%20Protection%20policy.pdf>)
- f) if a rider would like to discuss their marks with the judge/s concerned then they should do this in a polite non-confrontational manner and have test sheets with them for reference. The discussion should take place in a private area. Refer to EA General Regulations 169.6.3 for the penalty in relation to incorrect behaviour towards event officials or any other party connected with the event (other rider, journalist, public, etc)
- g) if you are unable to stay at the event venue to collect your test the organisers will post the test to you if you provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope
- h) remember to thank the organisers before you leave the ground, it may encourage them to run another competition for you

#### **F.16 Role of stewards**

Under EA and FEI rules stewards are required to stop riders if they have observed:

- a) neck stretching achieved through forced or aggressive riding
- b) the use of extreme flexion if it does not comply with the definition of stretching
- c) a rider deliberately maintaining a sustained fixed head or neck carriage longer than 10 minutes
- d) in cases where the horse is showing signs of general stress and/or fatigue

The steward may also ask the rider to walk for a certain amount of time in situations where the rider's stress may cause undesired riding (refer to Annex B).

A maximum duration of pre-competition warm-up of one hour is the standard; riders require permission from the Chief Steward (which will be granted only in exceptional circumstances) to extend a training session beyond one hour. The training session must include relaxation periods. They do not include walking on a loose rein, to or from stables, or for exercise prior to or post-test warmup.

Riders are also reminded that post-test repetition of movements may not exceed 10 minutes.

**NOTE:** Chief Steward in consultation with OC may reduce maximum duration due to welfare of horse e.g., extreme weather conditions

If you are competing at an FEI-approved event (i.e. CDI, CDIY, CDIJ, CDIP) it is essential that you make yourself aware of rules that specifically relate to FEI events. In particular, riders are reminded that no one, other than the rider may carry a whip in training or warm-up areas.

