



Equestrian Australia Eventing Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held: Tuesday 19th February

Below a summary of proceedings at the recent EAEC Committee meeting:

1. Request from Victoria to allow 10mm bits for National Events for Ponies

The FEI have amended the rule to allow 10mm bits for Ponies

2. Measurement of the Cross Country Course

Discussion around the use of GPS for final measurement of courses and whether wording in the guidelines needs strengthening. GPS or an app is not considered best practice in measuring a course and spread of the jump also needs to be included. Considered to be an education issue and GPS v Wheel and Rider lines be discussed and addressed at TD/CD seminar/clinics. Essential to address realistic rider lines at TD/CD seminars educating younger officials.

Recommendation is to measure the course with a wheel.

3. New Dressage Tests 2019

Feedback from riders and judges was that the suggested New Tests were not flowing. A working party came up with suggested changes...Amended tests were reviewed by the committee – have been placed on the EA Website.

Apologies to all as our focus was on the changes of Levels, (mandated by the FEI), and getting that right throughout the rules

Each State will need to ensure they have the updated dressage tests in events systems

4. Clarification on Hackamores and Bitless bridles

FEI new rule states a hackamore can only be used on XC if there is also a bit, however, this does not apply to **bitless bridles**, they can be used without a bit.

EAEC to write to FEI advising Australia is not in agreement with the rule and that a bitless bridle is NOT acceptable for XC.

PASSED MOTION: That National Rule 539.3.1 be amended to prohibit the use of bitless bridles for Cross Country.

5. Ground conditions at CCI events

Rider's Representative, Emma Mason, lead discussions raised by a senior professional rider regarding the condition of the going at CCI XC events and the issue this presents with course time v long-term interest of the horse particularly on hard ground. Overseas event – courses are watered/aera-vated in the weeks prior to the event.

6. New FEI rule 549.2 - Missing a flag

New rule attempts to clarify 15 and 20 penalty circumstances but is difficult to determine in practice. Discussion took place on how we want this rule to be interpreted.

- (i) Recommendation to TD's not to have bendy flags on narrow fences, use break-away flags.
- (ii) Following suggestion to define the penalties and seek further feedback from senior TD's:
 - Determine whether the rider or horse leg has touched the flag, if not 15 penalties (Given it must have been the head, neck or torso)
 - If a run out and not jumped 20 penalties

7. Organising Committee Resource Page for EA Website

Committee have decided to develop an Organising Committee Resource Page for the EA Website. Pages to include resource examples OC's can access to assist with the running of events:

- Refund Policy
- Express Permission list
- Eventing specific dressage rules
- What do we do in an event of a fall video (suggested if this is not being used, states edit to their purposes.)
- Risk Management Template
- Payment of Stewards – suggestions, per diems

Google forms to be set up as a template for Riders reps reports from events, to enable feedback to be provided from the event. State reps to set up with their states.

8. Number of events a TD can do in succession

Discussion on the number of events a TD can do in succession – FEI Rule: 3years but no more than 4 consecutive events, whereas National Rule: 3 consecutive years only.

Following was considered:

- Lack of experienced TD's accessible to States
- The need to mentor junior TD's and development them through the pathway
- Suggestions of moving TD's around the country to ensure TD's receive the experience they require (Possible EA Eventing Budget Item)
- Use of State International Competition Development Fund (ICDF) which is a % of membership passed back to States.

PASSED MOTION: That Rule 519.9.6 (c) be amended to read 3years but not more than 4 consecutive events.

9. Progress report to EAEC on officials Education Task Force.

i) Pathways

Update on TD and Eventing Dressage Pathways. Completing the TD pathway. Main changes to the TD pathways are around requirement for positive assessments for upgrading and continuous practice and positive assessment for maintenance.

TD Pathways document table as distributed to committee members for discussion & feedback.

Recommendations made and endorsed by committee the committee. CD Pathway to be developed along a similar line.

ii) Education

Update and feedback taken on the following:

Basic Principles-Officials Seminars

- Officials should attend a course every 3 years
- Courses should be run at an event (could be long or short format national or FEI) –we will plan for short format-duration 2 days
- Syllabus- we should agree a basic syllabus—to be done over the next 2-3 weeks and then:-
 - Trainers-we should ask each state to nominate a lead trainer.
 - Each lead trainer should be delegated a part of the course to produce the material for-this should be circulated for comment.
 - One day meeting of trainers to be held to discuss and finalise content and key messages

Proposed Syllabus

Introduction:- Role of Officials

Pre-event:-

1. Risk Management Plan
2. Serious Incident management Plan
3. Medical Services
4. Concussion protocol
5. Discussions with OC and CD and other officials
6. Riders Reps

At the event:-

1. TD & dressage
2. TD & SJ
3. TD and facilities
4. XC guidelines, measuring, fixing
 - a. Effect of Dressing
 - b. What is a good fence
 - c. XC walk/design exercise
 - d. Frangible, front shoulders , skinnies
5. Where to find rules and help
6. Dealing with protest etc
7. XC officials meeting
8. Dangerous riding, sanctions and warnings

After the Event:-

1. Results and reporting
2. Incident follow up

Possible breakup of responsibility for content:

- Pre-event TAS and VIC
- At the Event NSW/WA/QLD
- Introduction and Post Event SA

Discussion also took place regarding continuing development and the possible need for an update training module before officiating in a new calendar year. Possibly done online, open book exam.

10. Sloping Front Shoulders on Spread Fences with upright fronts

Suggestion that the guidelines had been in place for 12 months and had been working well. Now may be the time to include as a rule. Work being done on the wording of the rule.