



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL PARA DRESSAGE RULES



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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 - These rules are effective from 1 January 2026. From this date on, all other texts covering the same matter are superseded



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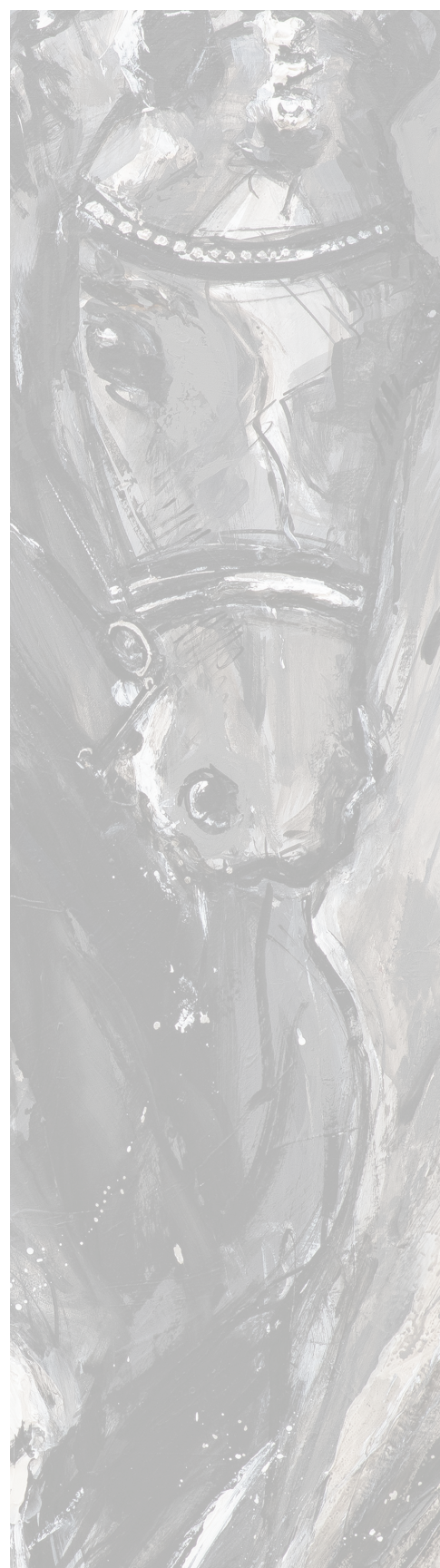
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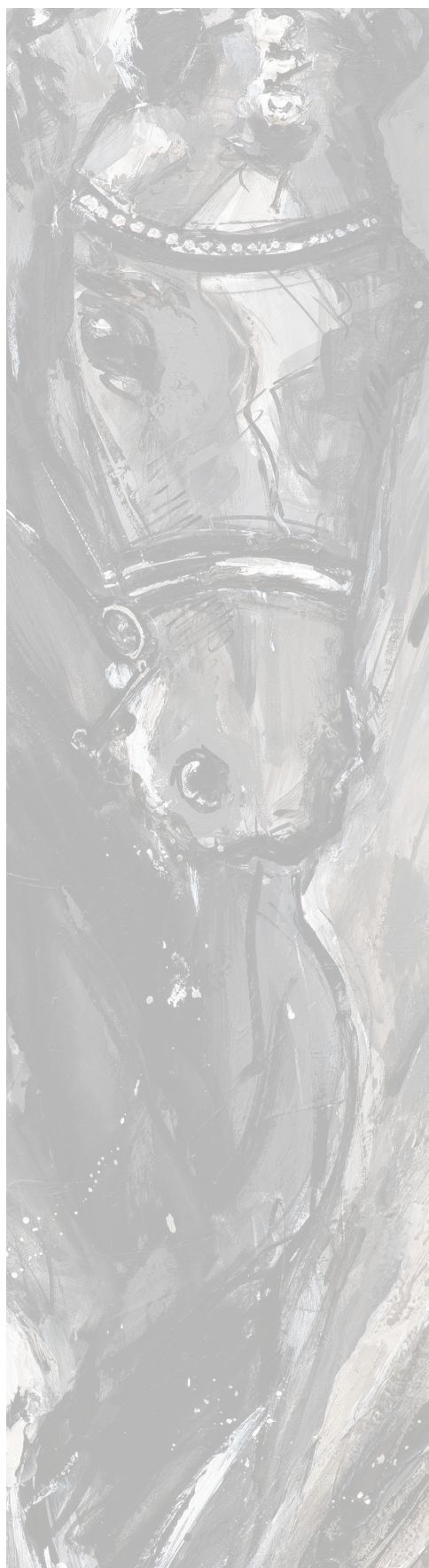
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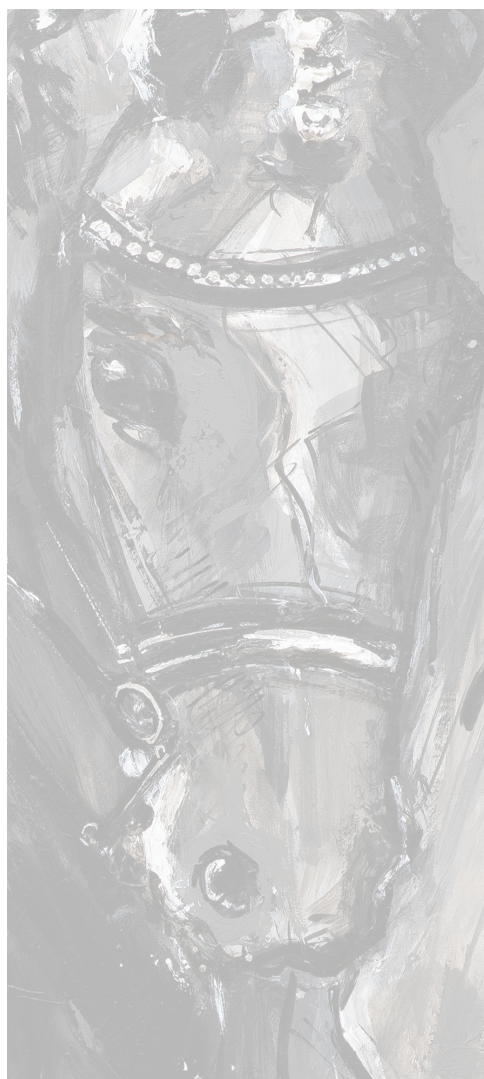
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PREAMBLE

Equestrian competition for Athletes with a disability is known as Para Equestrian (PE). These rules (which are based on FEI Rules governing Para Dressage) are for use in Australian Para Dressage

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.

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 Australia Para Equestrian Committee (EAPEC) 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 para dressage and FEI para dressage at EA events. For the rules relating to FEI-sanctioned para dressage events refer to the FEI rules at www.FEI.org

These Rules & Regulations cannot be used either in principle, in whole, or in part for the judging of Competition unless the Organising Committee or body is affiliated to Equestrian Australia.

GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

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

Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms

CDI	Dressage competition that is an FEI sanctioned event
CPEDI	Para dressage competition that is an FEI sanctioned event
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EA	Equestrian Australia Ltd
EADC	Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee
EADOC	Equestrian Australia Dressage Officials Committee
EOC	Error of Course
EAPDC	Equestrian Australia Para Dressage Committee
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)

Definitions

Below is a list of definitions of commonly used terms:

- a) a **para dressage test** is a series of prescribed movements performed by horse and Athlete and assessed by para dressage judges
- b) a **para dressage competition** is one or more horse and Athlete combinations performing the same prescribed test and assessed by para
- c) a **para dressage event** is comprised of one or more competitions between individual mounted Athletes, 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, which is judged by two accredited para dressage judges
 - **Para Dressage (PD)** – used when referring to National PD Rules and tests
 - **FEI Para Dressage (FEI PD)** – used when referring to FEI Para Dressage Rules and tests at FEI-sanctioned events.
- d) the **bell** includes any device used to signal to a competitor
- e) **grade** refers to the grade to which the Athlete has been classified by accredited Classifiers
- f) **Profile** refers to the relevant functional classification category as classified by the accredited Classifiers. There are various profiles within each Grade – this refers to the relevant classification category by the accredited Classifiers
- g) **Classifier** – is accredited by EA to conduct athlete evaluation, as part of a Classification Panel. A list of EA accredited Classifiers is maintained by the FEI and EA
- h) **Commanders** read a test for Athletes who are permitted commanders, and must be listed on the EA or FEI Master List – refer to para 4.16
- i) Athletes with a classified visual impairment may use Callers, who can be human or electronic and call out the letters
- j) **level** refers to the standards of tests.
- k) **Organising Committee (OC)** refers to an EA-affiliated organisation, group, society or body held to be responsible for the management of any dressage event
- l) **competition area** includes the competition arena and immediate surrounding area
- m) **exercise area** refers to the entire area covered by the park, centre, oval, showground or similar area where an event is being held
- n) **warm-up area** refers to an area designated by the OC as being the warm-up area for competitions
- o) **FEI-level tests** refer to FEI level tests run under EA rules; FEI tests refer to FEI tests run at FEI sanctioned events
- p) **horse** refers to horses and ponies unless 'pony' is otherwise specified
- q) **pony** refers to ponies not exceeding 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- r) a **Combination** refers to a horse or pony and Athlete combination
- s) a **Ground Jury** is made up of all of the officiating judges for an event or a competition
- t) the **Chef d'Equipe** is a person assigned to be the manager of a team
- u) **FEI-sanctioned event** refers to events that have approval from the FEI
- v) 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
- w) the **Chief Judge** is the judge positioned at C for the competition
- x) a **gear check** is having the horse and Athlete's equipment and attire inspected to ensure it complies with the rules

SECTION I GENERAL CONDITIONS

I.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 Athlete to comply with the equipment rules as outlined
- d) breach of the rules may entail elimination unless other penalties are stipulated
- e) EA Para Dressage rules apply from the time the horse arrives on the grounds

I.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 to the OC immediately who will without delay to officials at the event with the appropriate time and authority to deal with it or, if such officials are not available, to the State CEO 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 3.25

1.5 Sensory Hair

Please refer to the current EA General Regulations: Article 141 - Protection of Horses.

FOR REFERENCE: EA General Regulations as of 1st January 2025:

Article 141 - Protection of Horses

1. *In cases of a Horse's illness or injury during an Event the Ground Jury will decide, after consulting the Veterinary Delegate or Commission, whether the Horse may continue in that or subsequent Competitions.*
2. *A Horse's sensory hairs may not be clipped and/or shaven or otherwise modified in any way nor may the hair in the auricles be removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle under penalty of elimination from the event. Individual sensory hairs may be removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse.*
3. *Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule. Veterinary treatments are exempt from this rule.*
4. *Horses found competing with clipped/shaven/otherwise modified sensory hairs will be eliminated from the event.*
5. *From 1st January 2025, horses found competing with hair in the auricles removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle will be issued a recorded warning and from 1st July 2025 will be eliminated from the event.*

1.6 Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded 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 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 Athlete, journalist, public member, etc).

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

- a) A Yellow Warning Card must be issued for actions occasioning abuse of horse (an action or omission involving the mistreatment of a horse). Incidents considered to be serious Abuse of the Horse may be better further dealt with through the formal protest procedure as outlined in EA General Regulations
- 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)

1.6.1.1 A Recorded Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible for the following:

- a) failure to wear an EA-approved tagged helmet*
- b) inappropriate or undesirable behaviour by an athlete and/or their entourage towards an official or volunteer

*Riders with a non-compliant helmet and no EA helmet tag (see Section 3.6) will be given a Recorded Warning Card and eliminated; riders with a compliant helmet (see Section 3.6) but no tag will be given a Recorded Warning Card but allowed to compete

1.6.2 An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is any of the following:

- an FEI or National-accredited Steward
- an EA Technical Delegate – (generally not applicable for PD classes)
- an FEI-accredited Judge
- an EA National Judge Educator
- an EA-accredited A- or B-level Judge
- * An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card only when officiating at an Event with the exception of reports of horse abuse at the Event where officials with the necessary authority are not present at the event. In these cases the State CEO together with an official from the list above will decide the case and if warranted the Yellow Warning Card will be issued by that Official.

They can be hand-delivered or issued by any other suitable means and will state the reason for the warning.

For Recorded Warnings only: if none of these persons are present at an Event, the Organising Committee will designate the President of the Ground Jury (see 7.1) to have authority to issue the Recorded Warning, if required.

An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded 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 or Recorded 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 or Recorded Warning Card as soon as possible.

The Yellow Warning Card or Recorded 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 or Recorded Warning Card, the Person Responsible must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event. A Yellow Warning Card or Recorded 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.

1.6.3 Parent/Guardian/Support Person to be present.

A Parent/Guardian is required to be present when an Athlete under the age of 18 is issued with the Yellow or Recorded Warning Card. It is recommended to have a support person present when an athlete is issued with the Yellow or Recorded Warning Card where communication assistance is required.

1.6.4 a) Two (2) or more Recorded Warning Cards.

Should the same Person Responsible receive two (2) or more Recorded Warning Cards for any offence, at the same or any Event (International or National) within 12 months of the date of issue of the first Recorded Warning Card, the matter shall be referred to the State Branch CEO who shall determine whether a period of suspension from competition and the length of any suspension, is applicable.

b) One (1) or more Yellow Warning Cards.

Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) for any offence at the same or any other Event (Australian or International) within 12 months of the date of issue 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

1.6.5 The Official who gives a Yellow Warning Card, or Recorded 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 or Recorded Warning Card and the reasons for its issue within 48 hours after the delivery of the 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 or Recorded Warning Card issued to be entered into its national database.

1.6.6 A Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is a decision arising from the field of play and as such there is no Appeal against the issuing of such a warning.

1.7 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, www.fei.org or <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/>

1.8 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.

1.8.1 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

1.8.2 People may not officiate as a judge of a competition if:

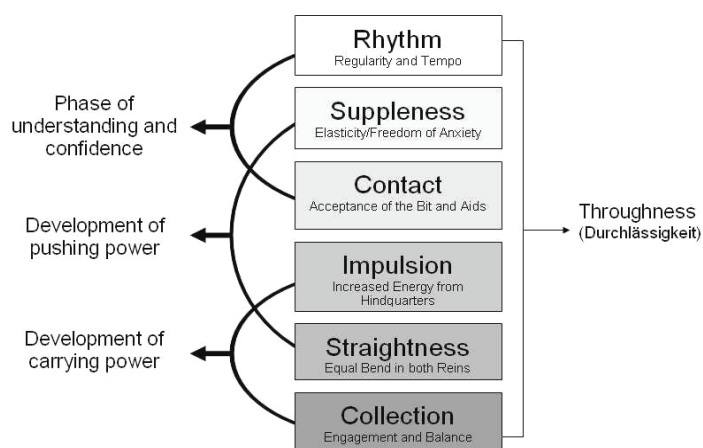
- a) an Athlete in the competition is a family member
- b) they are in a National Elite Squad and are asked to judge a fellow member of the same squad in a competition
- c) they have given or ridden in a riding clinic within 2 weeks prior to the event and an Athlete, coach or horse who has participated 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 Athlete 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 Athlete
- j) Judge Educators/Mentors must also follow these principles when carrying out shadow judging/sit-in

1.9 General Conditions - Minimum Medical Requirements

As per EA Health and Safety Minimum Medical Requirements Policy and refer additionally to the EA General Regulations Article 109 Refer to [EA Minimum Medical Response Requirements Policy](#)

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 is 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 forehand. 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.

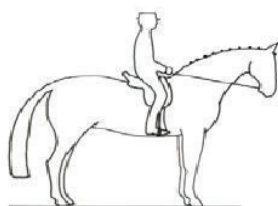
2.1 Objects and general principles

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 Athlete's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the Athlete.
- 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 Athlete, 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

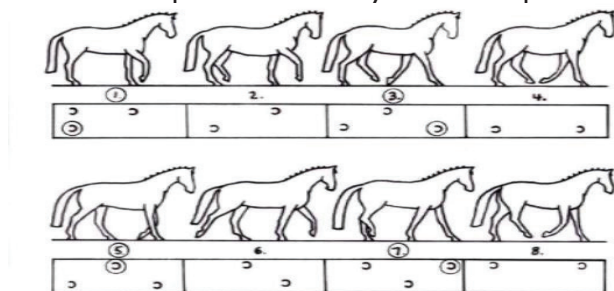
In the collected walk, the horse, remains 'on the bit', moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should 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:

- a) the rider allows the horse to take the reins gradually and smoothly as the horse stretches his neck forward and downward
- b) the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- c) a light, elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained
- d) 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
- e) during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the jaw, mouth or poll

2.4 The trot

- a) 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
- b) the trot should show free, active and regular steps
- c) 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
- d) all trot may be executed sitting or rising (standard compensating aid)
- e) 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

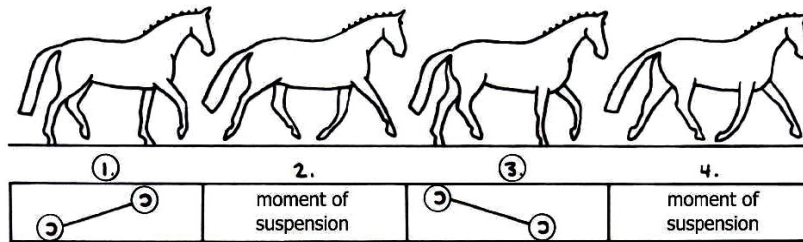
The medium trot is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to extended trot, but 'rounder' than the latter. Without hurrying the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical 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.



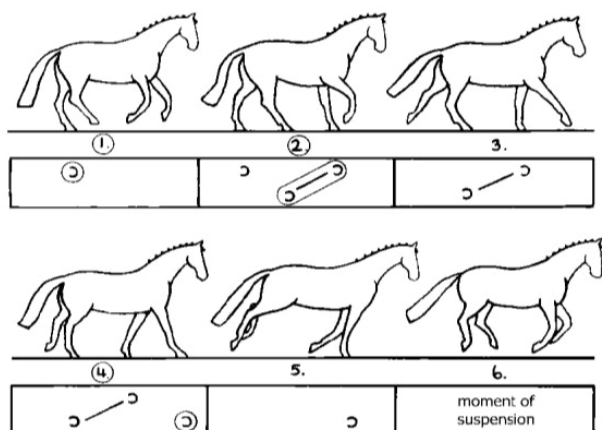
The trot is a pace in 2-beat rhythm with 4 phases - (Numbers in circles indicate the beat.)

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

- 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
- the canter should be moved into without hesitation, and always with light, cadenced and regular strides
- 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
- 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

2.5.7.1 Simple change through walk - 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.

2.5.7.2 Simple change through trot - Simple change of leg through trot is a movement which, after a direct transition out of the canter into trot, with 3 to 5 clearly defined trot 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

2.6 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, (in the preceding halt and rein back) 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 move forward in the required pace immediately, without any intermediate steps
- 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 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. They should be smooth and not abrupt. 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 on the bit, 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 Athlete, 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 6m 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) at the counter change of hand the horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.

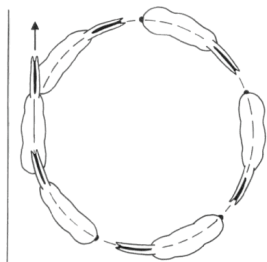
2.10 Figures

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

Figures with one, two or three loops on the long side or either side of the centre line are called shallow loops and, and cross the lines diagonally, unlike serpentines which must cross the lines at ninety degrees.

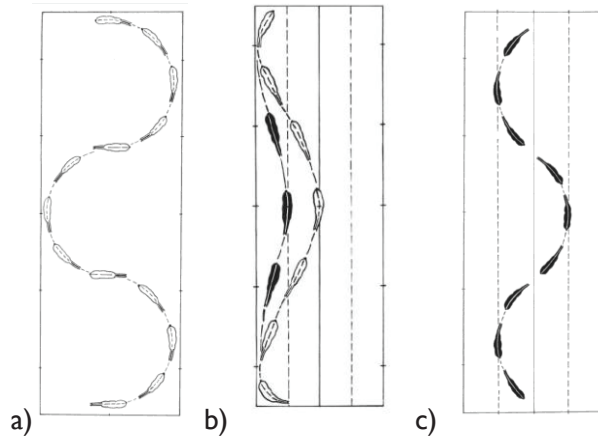
2.10.1 Volte

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



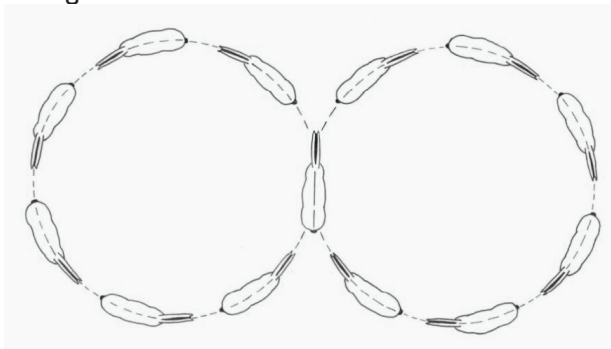
2.10.2 Serpentine

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 Athlete should make the horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



2.1.1 Work on two tracks

Two track work includes:

- Leg-yield
- Shoulder-in
- Travers
- Renvers
- Half pass

The aim of the lateral movements is:

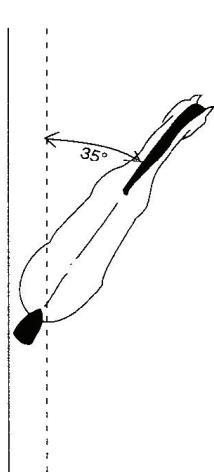
- Improve obedience of the horse
- To supple all parts of the horse, increasing the freedom of the shoulders and suppleness of the quarters and elasticity.
- To improve the cadence, balance and harmony.

2.1.1.1 Leg-yielding

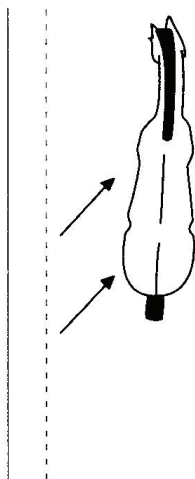
Leg-yielding is performed in medium walk and working trot. The aim of leg-yielding is to demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the Athlete is just able 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.

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

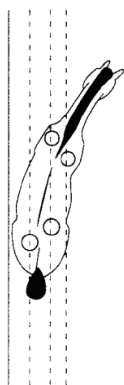
- a) the main aim of lateral movements (except leg-yielding) is to develop and increase the engagement of the hindquarters and thereby also the collection
- b) in all lateral movements (i.e. shoulder-in, travers, renvers, half-pass) the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the quarters on different tracks
- c) the bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the rhythm, the balance and fluency of the movement
- d) 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 Athlete's preoccupation with bending the horse and pushing it sideways

2.12.1 Shoulder-in

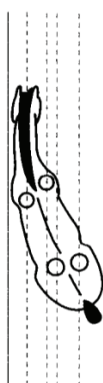
The shoulder-in exercise is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider, maintaining engagement and cadence at a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; 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

- a) 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
- b) this exercise can be performed in collected trot or collected canter
- c) the horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the Athlete but with a greater degree of bend than the shoulder-in
- d) a constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown (from the front and from behind one sees 4 tracks)
- e) the forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards
- f) 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)

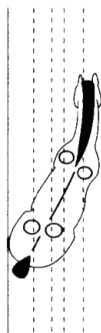
2.12.3 Renvers

- 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 Athlete
- 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)

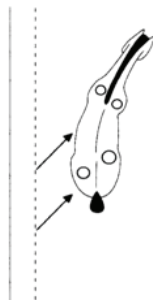
2.12.4 Half-pass

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 Athlete
- 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)



Renvers (illustration 3)



Half-Pass (illustration 4)

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

2.13.1 Turn on the haunches from walk

For Athletes riding tests in Grades where collected walk is not asked for, 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 and to improve the ability to bend the joints in 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. ½ metre) than the pirouette in walk, but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same.

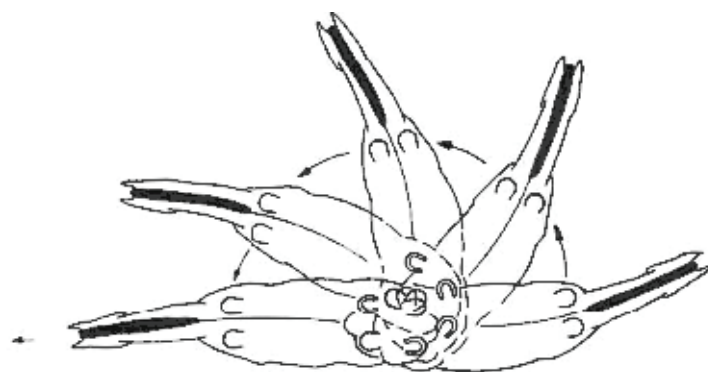
2.13.2 Half-pirouette in walk (180 degrees)

For Athletes riding tests in Grades where collected walk is not asked for, the “turn on the haunches” is 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. Full walk pirouettes are not permitted in Para Dressage Competition.

The aim of the pirouette (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.

- 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) may be carried out at collected walk or canter.
- 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 Athlete 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.

NOTE: Full canter pirouettes are not permitted in Para Dressage Competition.



A half pirouette (illustration 5)

2.14 The passage

It is not allowed to be performed in Para Dressage Competitions.

2.15 The piaffe

It is not allowed to be performed in Para Dressage Competitions. This includes half steps.

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 Athlete'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

Fulfilling successfully the main requirements/movements of a dressage test is the main criterion for submission

- a) 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
- b) 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 Athlete'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
- c) 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'
- d) 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 Athlete to react to the aids without fear or tension
- e) the horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the Athlete'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

The aim of the collection is to:

- i. further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the Athlete
- ii. develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage its hindquarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of its forehand
- iii. add to the 'ease and carriage' of the horse and to make it more pleasurable to ride.

Collection is characterised by the 'ease and carriage' of the horse, as well as a lively impulsion, originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

Collection is developed with half halts and the use of the lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers and half-pass.

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. 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. 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.

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.

At the moment the Athlete applies his aids to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical. The arch of the neck is directly related to the degree of collection.

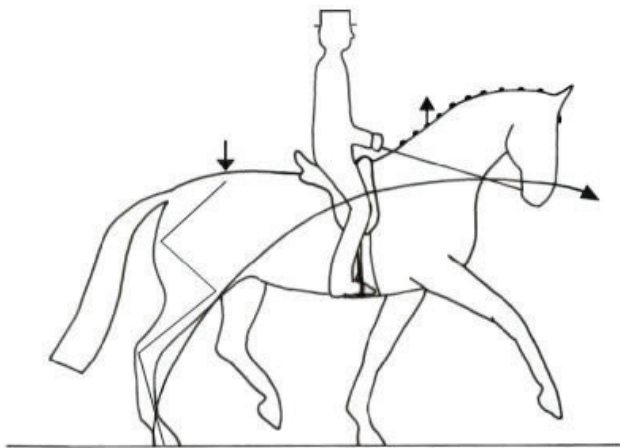


Illustration of collection

2.18 The position and aids of the rider

Where possible the Athlete should follow the guidelines in 2.18.

The Athlete will try to be well balanced and steady in the saddle. This position makes it possible for the Athlete to school/ride the Horse progressively and correctly showing that all the movements and transitions can be obtained with as little effort of the Athlete as possible. The aids which communicate with the Athlete's wishes to the Horse are of great importance in dressage.

Where possible the Athlete will ride with both hands at all Para Dressage Events, both FEI and EA. When leaving the arena on a long rein, after finishing the test the Athlete may ride with one hand.

A discrete pat on the neck, for a well performed performance, or reassurance, is acceptable, as is the situation of an Athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc).

However, if the Athlete 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 fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for the 'Rider'.

If foot reins are used, neither the hands nor arms may be used.

2.18.1 Use of voice

in Grades IV and V may not use their voice at any time during the execution of their test. Once the test has started the Athlete shall not speak to any other person, unless spoke to by the judge. Such a fault will be penalised by a deduction of at least two (2) marks by each judge from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this has occurred.

SECTION 3

CLASSIFICATION, DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

3.1 Classification Master List (Master List)

The FEI and EA maintain a 'Classification Master List' (known as The Master List). Athletes must be classified, and entered on the relevant Classification Master List to compete in EA Para Dressage Competitions.

Where an Athlete is both FEI and EA classified, the FEI Master List will take precedence.

The Master List will include details pertaining to:

- Athlete name, date of birth, functional profile number, Grade, Profile and Grade status
- the adaptive equipment (compensating aids) and equipment that may be used and the date of classification
- date of initial classification, most recent classification date, and Fixed Review date, if applicable
- classified Para Dressage Athletes must be included on either the FEI PD or EA PD Master List to compete
- the OC will provide the judges and the chief steward and gear checker, with a list of adaptive equipment (compensating aids) for competitors.

3.1.1 Other Para Dressage saddlery aids permitted – Adaptive equipment (compensating aids)

There are three categories of Adaptive equipment (compensating aids):

- Standard adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in the FEI Dressage Rules, which may be used by the Athletes across all functional profiles. Standard adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are allowed to be used by all classified para dressage athletes
- Profile-specific adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery, which may be used by nominated profiles and must be noted on the EA or FEI Master List following Classification evaluation. Requests for profile-specific adaptive equipment (compensating aids) can be made to EA or to the Chief Classifier at an Event. (Refer to the summary table of Annex IX FEI Para Dressage Rules)
- Non Standard adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are aids, other than those above, required by an individual Athlete and not described specifically in these rules. The aid is prescribed specifically for the Athlete to enable them to ride the Horse without providing an advantage over other Athletes within the same Profile or Grade. These aids may include modifications to a Standard or Profile-specific Compensating aid, or a piece of non-Standard equipment custom made for the Athlete.

For EA Classified athletes, these aids must be approved by EA and listed on the EA Classification Master List. For FEI Classified athletes these aids must be approved by the FEI and listed on the FEI Classification Master List

Refer to Annex IV for a summary of the common adaptive equipment (compensating aids) (copied from Annex IV of the FEI Para Dressage Rules) .

3.2 Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids) and Gear check

- a) It is the Athlete's responsibility to ensure that their adaptive equipment (compensating aids) (if any) are permitted as per the Rules and are listed appropriately on the EA/FEI Master List and are checked by the Steward
- b) Any equipment that is not permitted may result in elimination

3.2.1 Key features of Adaptive equipment (compensating aids):

- a) a copy of the Athlete's adaptive equipment (compensating aids) as per the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List must be sent to the Organising Committee with the entry form at the time of entry
- b) it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all special equipment/adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are permitted under Para Dressage rules, and that any used are noted on the Athlete's dressage FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List
- c) breast plates, neck straps and handholds are permitted
- d) any rein from any bit in the horse's mouth must be in direct contact with the Athlete
- e) if riding in a double bridle the 2 reins on one side must either both go to the Athlete's hand(s) or be connected into one rein before reaching the Athlete (split rein). Where split reins are used, the join must be at least 30cm from the bit.
- f) Elastic insert reins are permitted
- g) foot reins are only permitted when no other reins are going to be controlled by arm(s) or hand(s)/fingers from the upper part of the body of the Athlete
- h) if the rein is not used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the Athlete's point of contact on the reins to the horse's mouth
- i) for Athletes with two very short arms, reins may be run through rings that are attached to the front of the saddle by leather straps. These rings must not be in a fixed position but shall be loose
- j) Athletes using such rings must have details noted on the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List. The rings attached to saddles or breastplates must be no less than 10cm in diameter and not more than 12cm from the wither, not fixed and must be on the Master List.
- k) velcro may be used on the lower limbs to assist the Athlete in the saddle where there is identified need as determined by the Athlete's functional profile and grade. The use of velcro in this way must be recorded as a compensating aid for the Athlete on the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List
- l) the total amount of overlapping velcro or similar material used by any Athlete must not exceed 50 square cm. The total area of overlapping velcro or similar material per leg must not exceed 3 cm wide by 6 cm of overlap contact. For safety reasons it is recommended that it is fastened in a 'V' shape
- m) a velcro or thin leather strap (not to exceed 3cms in width) may be used to attach the stirrup leather or the stirrup iron to the girth to assist control of the lower leg where there is an identified need as determined by the Athlete's functional profile and grade. This must be recorded as a compensating aid on the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List. The strap must be no less than 5cm in length. If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.
- n) elastic rubber bands may be used to keep the feet in the stirrups, and such elastic must be of a width and strength to allow the Athlete to fall free of the horse
- o) to prevent the possibility of the foot sliding through the stirrup, stirrups may be closed at the front. Andersen stirrups may be used
- p) adaptations to equipment, velcro or similar materials that assist in the balance of the Athlete may change the functional profile of that Athlete
- q) visually impaired Athletes should consult the organising committee regarding their requirements. Only the lead caller (who may also Command where approved by the Chief Judge may be in the centre of the arena and may not move.

3.2.2 Other Para Dressage saddlery aids not permitted

- a) Gadgets, Martingales, bit guards, and kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips etc.) and any form of blinkers that interfere with the Horse's vision are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden during training, warm-up and competitions.
- b) any rein adaptation that produces a similar effect to these forbidden reins is not permitted
- c) no 'quick release' mechanisms may be used apart from 'quick release stirrups' if they are listed as a compensating aid on the Athlete's FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List
- d) any decoration of the horse with unnatural items, such as ribbons or flowers in the tail, mane, etc, is strictly forbidden, except for the red ribbon in the tail that identifies a horse that kicks.

3.3 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 ideally 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

3.4 Exemption Cards and Athletes who are not Para Dressage Classified

Non Para Dressage classified Athletes may apply to the EA PE exemptions committee to request exemptions to the standard dressage rules (EA Dressage Rules). To assist Athletes with a disability to compete on equal terms, exemption to the EA Dressage Rules can be considered for Athletes who:

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

Exemptions may be approved for the use of special equipment or allowances which are considered reasonable and necessary to enable the Athlete to ride the horse in a dressage test. There must be sufficient recent medical documentation which outlines the health condition and resulting impairment for which the special equipment/allowance is requested.

Each application will be considered by the EA Exemption Committee comprising:

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

The equipment/allowance must be considered safe and not provide an advantage over other competitors at the same competition level. In some instances, the applicant will be requested to provide further details to assist the committee to make a decision.

Application for Exemption forms are available from EA at <https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/exemption-cards-dressage>

Upon approval by the Committee the Athlete 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 Athletes with the appropriate exemption card.

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 Athlete throughout the Competition. Para Dressage Athletes please refer to Section 10 for further information.

3.5 Dress, saddlery and equipment

All Athletes must be neatly and correctly dressed at all times, and comply with the following:

- a) all Athletes in all grades have the option of using either a snaffle or double bridle and curb bit with a curb chain
- b) approved headgear must be worn by Athletes, grooms, trainers, owners etc. (as well as any other person), at all times whilst mounted. Athletes will not be permitted to ride until such headgear is properly secured and any Athlete violating this rule must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place
- c) for competition, hat covers may be black or another dark colour
- d) head gear must be as per EA rules refer [rule 3.6](#)
- e) hats may not be removed for salutes
- f) gloves shall be worn if possible
- g) spurs are optional
- h) ear phones are only permitted during training and warm up, except when listed as a compensating aid on the FEI/EA PD Master List, when they can be used throughout the test with a steward also provided with a receiver via three way head set system
- i) vision impaired Athletes – special conditions apply – refer to FEI PD Rules Article 8427 1.7. However, vision impaired Athletes must wear a distinctive coloured arm band when mounted both inside and outside the competition arena
- j) for bridles and bits please refer to Section 3 for details
- k) as the FEI and EA rules governing nosebands differ, it is recommended that the FEI Para Dressage rules be followed
- l) ear hoods are permitted for all Events, and may contain noise reducing materials
- m) for Horse Identification numbers please refer to [rule 5.6.5](#)
- n) use of voice is permitted as an aid for Grades I, II and III but is not permitted for Grade IV and V unless specified as an aid on their FEI PD or EA Master List
- o) safety vests (including inflatable), dark in colour, are permitted
- p) an Athlete may only ride without the use of stirrups if this is specified on the FEI or EA Classification Master List
- q) ice vests are permitted

The FEI and EA PD rules do not permit Micklem nosebands to be used with double bridles. They do permit combined nosebands to be used with double bridles when the lower strap of the noseband is removed.

3.6 Headgear and helmets

In relation to helmets and other headwear:

- a) 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 122.4 prescribe the current standards. It is the responsibility of the Athlete to ensure they are using a current standard safety helmet. Protective headgear must conform with one of the current approved safety standards and in addition, the product must have passed quality testing (quality testing monitors the ongoing quality of the product according to the original standard).
- b) current Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked
- c) new Australian standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked
- d) current American standards ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked, or SNELL E2001
- e) current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked
- f) Protective headgear carrying a CE mark referencing EN1384:2023 or VG1 provided they are InspecIC or BSI Kitemarked.
Note: products carrying VG1 without a kitemark will be allowed until 1 January 2027
- g) black or may be same colour as coat, a reflective strip (not the entire helmet) permitted



BSI Kitemarked



SAI Global marked



SEI marked

3.6.1 All headgear should be secured when competing.

However, if an Athlete's hat comes off during the test the C Judge must stop the test, so the Athlete can retrieve and replace the hat. The Athlete can have outside assistance to retrieve the hat. Once the hat has been replaced the test and judging recommences from where it was stopped.

3.6.2 All helmets must be tagged in accordance with the EA regulations.

3.6.3 Any type of camera may not be attached to a helmet or anywhere on the Athlete, saddlery or horse.

3.7 Dress

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

Penalties for incorrect or not permitted dress, saddlery & equipment are outlined in [Annex E](#)

- a) if dress, saddlery or equipment is "not permitted", use of such items will entail elimination
- b) the wearing of "incorrect" dress for the appropriate level will incur a technical fault of 0.5% from each judge.

Refer table [Annex E](#)

3.7.1 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) stocks are to be white, off white, a pale colour or same colour as coat, piping trim is permitted

3.7.2 Jackets and coats

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

- a) for Competitions, a plain colour jacket is allowed. Contrast colouring and piping is allowed. Striped or multi-coloured coats are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable. Cutaway coats/ are permitted providing they are cut straight across the back
- b) for FEI levels jackets and coats, any solid colour is permitted
- c) bright colours such as red, orange, pink, yellow, lime green, and wide contrast stripes and multi-coloured jackets and coats are not permitted. State and National colours are permitted.
- d) back protectors may be worn under or over the jacket or coat
- e) a non flapping rain jacket, either clear or similar colour to the coat may be worn over the coat in wet weather
- f) Safety vests (including inflatable), dark in colour, are permitted.
- g) A white coloured Arm Band, provided by the Athlete, must be worn at all times by Athletes with a classified visual impairment, while mounted outside of Competition (Field of Play).
- h) A light blue coloured Arm Band, provided by the Athlete must be worn at all times by Athletes with a classified hearing impairment, while mounted outside of Competition (Field of Play). Note: recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027
- i) Where trainers are mounted on grade I, II and III horses, they must wear a yellow armband stating 'Trainer' whenever mounted on a para dressage horse. Note: yellow armband recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027

3.8 Pocket badges and Advertising

Pocket badges are only issued to Athletes for specific occasions. On most occasions only one pocket badge should be worn at competitions. An Athlete may have a second badge when riding as a representative. Once an Athlete has represented Australia at a World Championships or Paralympic 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 Athletes and Horses refer to the EA General Regulations Art 135 for information on flags and sponsor logos on saddlery and clothing.

3.9 Footwear

In regards to an Athlete's footwear:

- all Athletes must wear riding boots with heels and smooth soles, or only lightly indented tread for safety reasons, when mounted
- unsafe boots will entail elimination
- the exposed side of the long boots must be smooth, a discrete zipper on the outside is permitted as are front lace closers
- Black or dark colour boots with a heel must be worn. Plain black or dark colour half-chaps or gaiters to the knee may be used.

3.9.1 Gaiters

Athletes please note:

- gaiters may be worn
- gaiters may only be worn with approved short boots
- the exposed side of the gaiter must be full grain leather
- the gaiters must match the colour of the boots, which must be brown, black or same colour as boots

3.10 Clothing – Table of permitted clothing

3.10.1 Dress table

	Hat	Coat	Shirt	Stock / Tie	Jodhpurs/ Breeches	Boots	Gloves
All para dressage	Safety helmet that complies with EA regulations	Short coat	Athletes may ride without jackets if feeling overheated. A long, short sleeved or sleeveless shirt. A stock, tie or ratcatcher must be worn and be securely attached	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 light coloured breeches/ jodhpurs Seat may be dark colour	Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots with gaiters – must be black brown or dark colour. Exposed grain must be leather	White, off white preferred or same colour as jacket

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

3.11 Spurs

Athletes please note:

- a) spurs may be worn by all competitors as a standard compensating aid
- b) spurs must be identical on both sides, i.e., they must be a pair, unless allowed as a non-standard compensating aid and noted on the Master List,
- c) spurs must be made of metal
- d) metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs ('Impulsi' spurs) or 'Dummy' spurs with no shank are permitted
- e) a curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the Athlete's boot; rowels also must point directly back from the centre of the spur.
- f) Spurs must not be offset, unless allowed as a non-standard compensating aid and noted on the Master List.
- g) the tip of the shank must not point up or point inwards. Swan neck spurs are permitted
- h) the arms of the spur must be smooth and blunt
- i) if disc rowels are used, they must be blunt & smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Daisy, tines, notched, serrated edges are not permitted
- j) disc rowels may be in a vertical or horizontal plane
- k) soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane are permitted
- l) pony Athletes, (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
- m) there is no maximum length of spurs for Athletes of horses
- n) 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](http://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage-rules))

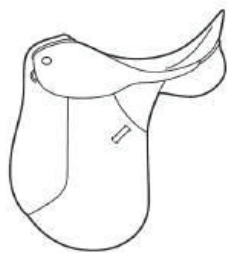
3.12 Whips

- a) one whip with maximum length of 1 m for ponies and 1.20 m for horses (including tassel) may be carried if required – unless two whips are permitted under FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List
- b) any other variation from conventional or curved whips must be approved and recorded on the FEI or EA PD Master List of Exemptions
- c) any whip used (as per 3.12 a)) above, may be used:
 - in the exercise and warm up areas
 - in all tests
 - by an Athlete anywhere on the grounds when riding or leading a horse/pony
 - by other parties, provided it is not used in connection with training a horse/pony
- d) a lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony
- e) incorrect length or use of whip will entail elimination (as per [Annex E](#))
- f) use of non permitted whips at any time schooling or warming up, including two whips where not approved will result in elimination.

3.13 Saddles and saddlecloths

3.13.1 Saddle

- a) a well-fitting, well-maintained saddle of any type, suitable to the horse and Athlete shall be used. (See below)
- b) at the halt there must be a clear 3 cm between any means of support and the Athlete's trunk
- c) any adaptations to a saddle must allow the Athlete to fall free of the horse. Any such adaptation must be listed as a compensating aid on the Athlete's FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List. No saddle may be deeper in the seat than 12 cm with the seat pressed down. This is measured from the middle of a line from the top of the pommel to the top of the cantle
- d) the use of a soft handhold may not be more than 30 cm wide, to assist the Athlete to balance may be attached to the front of the saddle, in front of or above the pommel
- e) such a handhold may not be more than 10 cm above the top of the pommel when held. If a hard handhold is essential, it must not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide, and it must be stated on the Athlete's FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List
- f) plain numnahs may be used
- g) dark-coloured seat/saddle covers may be used if they are specified on the FEI PD Master List– or EA PD Master List
- h) plain saddlecloths may be used. White is preferred but pale colours permitted. Coloured piping is permitted.
- i) any saddle that does not meet the required criteria will entail elimination.



Example of permitted dressage saddle

- j) all parts of the saddle to be black or brown only. Coloured piping around the edges of the saddle is permitted. The back of the cantle may reflect shades of the saddle.

3.13.2 Stirrups

In regards to stirrups:

- a) must be black, silver, gold or same colour as the Athlete's boots
- b) all safety stirrups, including toe stoppers, and open branches are permitted
- c) 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 Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddle or stirrup
- d) Athletes with eligible profiles may be permitted to have a strap from the stirrup or stirrup leather to the girth. This must be stated on their Master List and the strap must be a minimum of 5cm as per [rule 3.2.1](#). If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.
- e) Elastic rubber bands may be used to keep the feet in the stirrups. Such elastic must be of a width and strength to allow the Athlete to fall free of the Horse.
- f) Magnetic stirrups are permitted. These are both standard adaptive equipment (compensating aids) for all Athletes and do not need to be noted on the Master List

3.14 Bridles

3.14.1 Bridles

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 unless they are a standard compensating aid or listed on the Athlete's Master List.
- k) If riding in a double bridle the 2 reins on one side must either both go to the Athlete's hand(s) or be connected into one rein before reaching the Athlete (split rein). Where split reins are used, the join must be at least 30cm from the bit.
- l) Elastic insert reins are permitted
- m) martingale stoppers are permitted. Where the reins have stoppers or knots there must be no more than one stopper or knot (unless otherwise stated on the Master List). The size must not be greater than a single knot on a standard rein (unless otherwise stated on the Master List)
- n) Where ladder reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of three soft rungs per rein. Where Looped reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside the loops
- o) bitless bridles are not permitted

3.14.2 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)

3.15 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 Athlete to do so. If the Athlete 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 provided that the padding does not interfere with the tightness of the noseband

3.16 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 not permitted
- 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) mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joints
- f) The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the Horse. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimetres (12 mm) for curb bit and ten millimetres (10 mm) for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a minimum diameter of twelve millimetres (12mm) for Horses and ten millimetres (10mm) for Ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

3.16.1 Snaffle Bits

- a) 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
- b) 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
- c) 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 Annex F. 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

3.17.1 Double Bridle Bits

3.17.1.1 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 3.11 - 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

3.17.1.2 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
- 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 not permitted
- 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

Permitted bits - refer to Annex F – permitted bits

Also Refer to EA equipment annex for illustration of permitted bits -

<http://www.equestrian.org.au>

3.18 Noseband

3.18.1 Double bridle noseband

A cavesson noseband is compulsory with a double bridle under penalty of elimination. Refer Annex F diagram 5, when used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the nose band is not permitted.

3.18.2 Nosebands for snaffle bridles

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

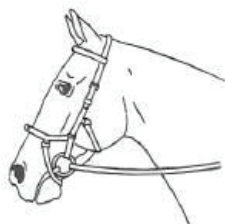
- a) dropped noseband (see Illustration 1 Annex F)
- b) cavesson noseband (see Illustration 2 Annex F)
- c) flash (or Hanoverian) noseband (see Illustration 3 Annex F)
- d) crossed (Grackle or Mexican noseband (not permitted in Young Horse competitions) (see Illustration 4 Annex F)

See Annex F of permitted nosebands

The FEI and EA PD rules do not permit Micklem nosebands to be used with double bridles. They do permit combined nosebands to be used with double bridles when the lower strap of the noseband is removed.



5. Combined noseband – no throat lash



6. Micklem bridle

Permitted nosebands – refer to Annex F – permitted nosebands

3.19 Optional Items for double bridles (not compulsory):

- a) split reins – see rule 3.14.1 k).
- b) lip strap
- c) leather cover for curb chain
- d) rubber cover for curb chain

3.20 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
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			
Blinkers, any form			X
Boots, bell boots and bandages		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5% from each judge if worn in the space around the arena • 0.5% from each judge if worn in the arena 	
Breastplates	Permitted		
Crystal mane bands			X
Snaffle Bridle	All grades	All grades	
Double bridle	All grades	All grades	
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		FEI only if FEI approval granted
Foregirths	All levels		
Grass reins			X
Headphones or similar devices	Only if Commander stated on the Master List (ML)	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
Soft hand hold (hard hand hold must not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide and must be on master list)	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)	Not permitted	X	
Running martingales	Not permitted	Not permitted	
Running reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)			X
Saddles – coloured piping	Yes		
Saddle covers (e.g. sheepskin or rain covers, etc)	Seat saver if on ML	X	
Stirrups – magnetised	Yes		
Stirrups – strap to stirrup OR stirrup iron	Only if on ML		
Tongue ties			X

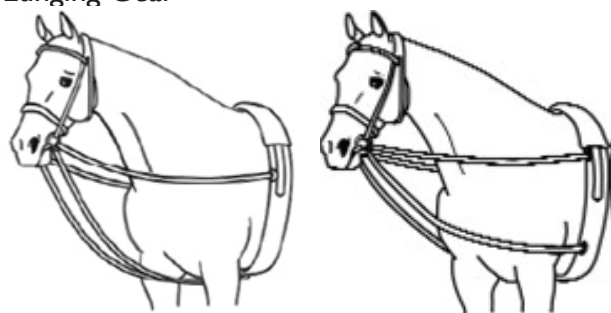
Equipment	Details of equipment	Permitted in EA competition	Permitted in FEI competition
Whips Curved whips allowed rule 3.12	Max 1.2m horses and 1.0m ponies 1 whip unless 2 on master list	x	x
Saddle	Dressage (including all-purpose), must be fully-mounted, used with or without a saddlecloth.		
Soft hand hold (hard hand hold must be on master list)		x	x
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	optional
	Bit and bridoon (Double)	optional	optional
Nosebands, black or brown only	Cavesson, Dropped, Flash	One (only) Compulsory Only Cavesson permitted with double	One (only) Compulsory Only Cavesson permitted with double
False tails	Must not contain any metal parts or added weight	x	x
Additional gear	Breastplate	Optional	optional
	Foregirth	x	x
	Bandages, brushing boots, over-boots, 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 Athlete or groom must remove the ear hood for checking if requested	
	Nose nets – Refer to 3.23 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 ² , only breast height	x	x
Sponsor saddlecloth badges. Refer to EA General Regs Article 135	Max 200 cm ² on each side	x	x

3.21 Lunging equipment

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

- a) lunging cavessons are permitted
- b) only one lunge rein may be used (more than one lunge rein and long reining not permitted)
- c) 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
- d) double bridles are permitted but the lunge line or side reins are not permitted to be attached to the curb bit
- e) horses must be attached to a lunge line and be wearing a bit or lunging cavesson when being lunged at an event
- f) the lunging of an Athlete mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event
- g) ear hoods are permitted
- h) a lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony

Lunging Gear



3.22 Ear hoods

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

- a) the ear hood must be a correct size for the horse and not cover the horse's eyes
- b) the ear hood may be made of material which provides for sound reduction
- c) ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband
- d) the 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

3.23 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:

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

3.24 Over-boots/Hoof boots and hoof covering

In regard to horse wearing shoes or hoof coverings:

- a) it is not mandatory for horses to be shod
- b) 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
- c) 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
- d) hoof black is not permitted, and may entail elimination. Clear oil/grease is permitted.

3.25 Protective coverings/ Boots/ Bandages – see technical faults rule 4.20 and Annex E

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
- 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.

SECTION 4 PARA DRESSAGE EVENTS

4.1 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.

4.2 Competitions

In regard to holding Official competitions:

- a) If the event is sanctioned by the FEI, then the FEI tests must be used. Where the event is not sanctioned by the FEI, then only the current Official FEI or EA tests may be used.
- b) only current accredited para dressage judges are eligible to officiate at Competitive and Participation competitions
- c) there is to be a maximum of 30 horses per competition

4.2.1 Para Dressage Tests (PD)

- FEI PD tests are highly recommended to be used at State-level events
- it is mandatory to use FEI PD tests at Nationals and CPEDI events

Events will be as follows:

- PD national events
- PD state events
- Australian Para Dressage Championships
- FEI PD event – FEI-sanctioned i.e. CPEDI3*

Each Grade has its own series of Tests

- (a) FEI tests – as published by the FEI
- b) national tests – refer the EA website

Dressage and Freestyle are graded according to the suitability for the Athletes in the five grades. All grades should be included if possible. Only the current para dressage tests may be used in official competition.

- (a) In Grade I tests, Athletes compete at walk only.
- (b) In Grade II tests, Athletes compete at walk and trot.
- (c) In Grade III tests, Athletes compete at walk and trot.
- (d) In Grade IV tests, Athletes compete at walk, trot and canter, with lateral work in trot.
- (e) In Grade V tests, Athletes compete at walk, trot, canter and this includes lateral work in trot and canter

Athletes in Grades I, II and III compete in 20m x 40 m arenas. Athletes in Grades IV and V compete in 20m x 60m arenas.

4.3 Conditions of participation

4.3.1 Athlete Classification

It is a condition of participation that the Athlete has a permanent, verifiable and measurable physical or visual impairment, which is supported by medical evidence and satisfies the minimal impairment criteria as detailed in the FEI Para Dressage Classification Rules.

- 4.3.2 All Athletes must undergo Athlete evaluation by two EA or FEI accredited Para Dressage Classifiers before they may take part in a competition. Athletes with FEI Classification can enter National competition with their FEI Classification.

4.3.3 An Athlete who is reclassified to a new grade at a competition may choose:

- a) To compete at their original grade if the original grade was higher without any penalty
- b) To compete at their original grade if the original grade was lower with a 10% reduction in their resulting score.
- c) To compete at their new grade and have the option of a commander (at this competition only) even though a commander is not authorised on their Master List, without any penalty.

4.3.4 Horses

- a) an Athlete may enter a maximum of two horses per grade
- b) horses and ponies must be at least 6 years old to compete in EA Para Dressage and for Grand Prix tests the horses must be a minimum age as per the FEI rules.
- c) horses for Grades I, II and III may be ridden and/or schooled for up to 30 minutes per day by the trainer/coach/groom or another Athlete designated by the competing Athlete
- d) horses for Grade IV and Grade V may only be schooled by the Athlete competing on those horses after arrival at the venue
- e) horses competing in Grade I, II and III may not be trained/schooled by anyone other than the Athlete for 15 minutes before they enter the competition arena to perform their dressage test
- f) a horse may be shared by a maximum of 2 Athletes in different grades
- g) under FEI Rules Athletes may compete in a maximum of 2 tests per day per horse
- h) horses may compete in a maximum of 2 tests per day
- i) horses that compete in both PE and national/FEI dressage tests may only compete in a maximum of 2 tests per day in total
- j) preferably, horses should be identified by a Horse Identification number corresponding to the relevant Grade, worn at all times when on the competition grounds outside the stable

4.4 Sharing of horses

- a) for horses ridden by Grade I, II and III Athletes, the horse must only be ridden by a trainer/coach/groom for a total of 30 minutes (i.e. if 2 Athletes from Grades I or II share, they are only permitted 30 minutes total shared time between them, per day)
- b) arena familiarisation sessions are allocated on a horse basis, not Athlete basis and therefore only one session would be allocated to a horse shared by 2 Athletes
- c) where horses are shared by one Athlete from the lower Grades I, II and III and one Athlete from the higher Grades IV and V the following applies
 - on competition days, if the lower grade Athlete competes first, then 30 minutes schooling by a trainer/coach/groom/other Athlete will be permitted prior to the test. For the higher-grade Athlete, this is considered to be the 30 minutes schooling by the Athlete and therefore no further allocation of time will be permitted. This is on the grounds of horse welfare.
 - on competition days where the higher grade Athlete competes first, this is considered to be the 30 minutes schooling (by a trainer/coach/groom) permitted for the lower grade Athlete and therefore no further allocation of time will be permitted for the lower grade Athlete. This is on the grounds of horse welfare
 - on non-competition days, the horse may be ridden by both Athletes, but no time will be allocated for the horse to be schooled by a trainer/coach/groom (i.e. the 30 minutes). It is considered that the higher grade Athlete is schooling the horse for the lower grade Athlete
- d) sharing is only permitted between 2 PD Athletes within Grades and sharing between a PD and non-PD Athlete at an event is prohibited.

4.5 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, Athletes, grounds, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.’

4.6 Timing of the draw

It is strongly recommended to allow 60 minutes between tests for the same horse.

Where an Athlete has more than one horse in a competition, 60 minutes should be timetabled between rides to allow Athlete to go from one horse to the other, however Athletes may opt for less on the day of event

4.7 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, each entire competition must be judged separately
- b) each category may be conducted consecutively

4.8 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, where possible
- 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)

An arena of forty (40) metres long and twenty (20) metres wide must also be provided for Para Dressage Grade I, II, and III Athletes. If Athletes with classified visual impairment require larger markers, they have to provide them themselves.

4.9 Entering the arena (See Annex D Arena Familiarisation)

Under penalty of elimination no Athlete or Horse may use the competition arena at any time other than during their performance in a competition or during an allocated training session.

At least one (1) practice arena of twenty metres by sixty metres (20m x 60m) must be placed at the disposal of Athletes from the time of opening of the stables. If possible, the arena should be of the same consistency as the competition arena footing. The 20m x 60m arena should have the ability to mark out a 20m x 40m arena. Provision should be made where possible, for Athletes with classified visual impairment to train alone and warm up alone if the Athlete requests. All Athletes with a visual impairment may start the test from within the arena.

A steward must be present at all times to supervise the training/warm-up from the official opening of the stables and may enforce the rules prior to the official start of the Event.

Athletes and event organisers must be aware of the following:

- a) when presenting to the judge before a test, Athletes 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 Athlete is permitted to enter the arena as soon as the previous Athlete has exited and before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded the new Athlete starts the test from within the arena
- c) under special circumstances and conditions, the OC may also permit Athletes 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 Athlete 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 60 seconds of the bell being sounding will entail a technical fault of 0.5% per judge. Should an Athlete continue and not enter within a further 120 seconds they will be eliminated
- g) entering the arena at A before the bell signal has been given may entail a technical fault of 0.5% from each judge
- h) judging commences with the Athlete'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 may take the reins in one hand to salute, or salute with head only. Failure to salute will entail a technical fault of 0.5% 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

4.10 Dismounting/Fall during test

In regard to dismounting or falling during a test:

- a) Athletes must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena on penalty of elimination. Refer to 4.10e for an exception for a fall after the final salute
- b) if an Athlete 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 Athlete. However, in the case of a dropped whip it is preferable this is done at the end of the test when the Athlete has left the arena. It is permitted for the whip to be handed back to the Athlete where it is a necessary compensating aid
- c) any fall of the horse and/or Athlete between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute, will entail elimination from that test, and the Athlete may not remount to leave the arena
- d) if an Athlete 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 Athlete after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination and the Athlete may not remount to leave the arena
- f) before the horse and Athlete may continue at the event, the Chief Judge or representative of the OC
 - must send the Athlete to the designated first aid official for assessment of injury. Refer to the EA Concussion Policy
 - may send the horse to be assessed for injury by a vet or horse welfare officer
- g) In addition to the above please refer to current FEI Para Dressage Rules: ARTICLE 842I PENALTIES – ERRORS – ELIMINATIONS; 5. Eliminations; 5.3. Fall of Horse and/or Athlete

4.11 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.

4.12 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 60 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 Athlete, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons earlier than 60 seconds. There is no appeal against this decision
- b) a horse wilfully leaving the arena with all four feet during a test between the beginning and the end of the test will be eliminated. If not wilful, the movement will be marked to reflect the loss of direction.
- c) should a horse leave the arena with all four feet after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination

4.13 Unauthorised assistance

Any intentional outside intervention is considered assistance to an Athlete 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 Athletes are not permitted to request specific music, or music at specific times
- c) on the grounds of safety, Athletes in Grade I, II, III and Profile 36 (totally blind) may be accompanied around the outside arena by the trainer or their representative before the Test starts. They may be led, but must not be schooled or coached from the ground.

4.13.1 Special rules for Para Dressage - Outside assistance

- a) any outside assistance or intervention, including coaching by voice, signs, etc, may result in elimination, at the discretion of the Judge at C
- b) the Athlete's trainer or representative may stand near the competition arena to relay the judge's instructions, if necessary
- c) grades I, II and III helpers may be placed in corners outside the arena for safety reasons. In an emergency, they may give physical assistance. Penalties will be at the discretion of the Judge at C, who may eliminate the Athlete either at the time, or at the conclusion of the test
- d) Athletes in Grades I, II and III may have a trainer walk with them around the outside of the arena before they enter the test. They may be led, but they cannot be coached during this time.
- e) In Grades I, II and III if circumstances allow, a companion horse may stand adjacent to the arena. The position in which it stands can be designated by the steward or the judge at C
- f) in cases where an Athlete stops the test and receives outside assistance in order to turn a temporarily unsafe situation back into a safe situation (i.e. in case of a lost stirrup) each judge should give 0 for the particular movement but allow the Athlete to continue the test
- g) if Grade IV Athlete (profile 36) is required to wear blacked out glasses, they are permitted prior to the start of test, to enter arena and proceed once each way around the arena
- h) any Athlete with a visual impairment is permitted to start the test from the 'inside' as per FEI rules.

4.14 Movement and access of horses at competition grounds

4.14.1 Access to competition grounds

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

4.14.2 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, competition rules apply, (unless otherwise stated in the schedule)- ie, for Grades IV and V, a horse may be ridden only by its nominated Athlete on the competition grounds. Trainer times apply for Grades I, II and III. 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, Athletes 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. OC approval is required.
- h) Athletes 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; Athletes 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. A maximum of one hour per day unless exemption granted by Chief Steward or President of the Ground Jury.

Athletes 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, or space requirements.

4.14.3 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 Athlete is permitted
- b) work in-hand by someone other than the nominated Athlete 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 Athlete mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event

Also see [3.21 Lunging equipment](#)

4.15 Scale of marks

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

10 – excellent	5 – marginal (EA) (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

4.16 Called/commanded tests

In regard to a test being called, the term used for PD tests is commanded.

- a) tests may not be commanded:
 - in any competition where the Conditions of Entry excludes it (such as State and National Championships, or where FEI rules apply)
 - at any FEI-sanctioned competition (e.g.CPEDI) unless the Athlete has a commander listed on the Master List
- b) where commanders 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 commander may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination
- d) All Athletes where commanders are permitted, may use a headset during all tests. Where a headset is used, it is the responsibility of the Athlete to provide a fully functioning headset with an extra receiver to enable the steward to listen to all communication going to the Athlete.

4.17 Commanders and callers

- a) commanders read a test and callers call out the letters to those visually impaired Athletes who need this assistance
- b) official FEI PD tests must be carried out entirely from memory, and all movements must follow in the order laid down in the test, except for those Athletes who may have their tests commanded and/or called as a compensating aid listed on the EA or FEI PD Master List
- c) only the printed text or extract thereof can be commanded and no other form of assistance can be given
- d) the commander may read each movement once or twice only and failure to observe this rule may entail elimination
- e) all commanders must be supervised by a steward
- f) all EA tests or FEI tests used at EA competitions can be commanded except at the following events:
 - a. State Championships
 - b. National Championships
 - c. FEI-sanctioned events
- g) an exception to f) is if the need for commanded tests is stated as a compensating aid on a Athlete's FEI PD Master List
- h) where callers are permitted for visually impaired riders, there is a maximum of 4 callers permitted. The lead caller must remain still one place. The other callers may move from market to marker provided they do not obstruct the view of the judges.

4.18 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
- c) On the grounds of safety, visually impaired riders may commence the test from inside the arena. They should be given the opportunity to ride inside the arena on each rein before the judge rings the bell to commence the test.

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.

4.19 Holding the reins

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

- a) leaving the arena after the final salute
- b) a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an Athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc)
- c) Where rider is unable to do so, this should be listed on their Master List.

If the Athlete 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 an Athlete to take the reins in one hand, whip in the other and use it on the horse – such action will entail elimination.

4.20 Penalties, Technical Faults and Errors of Course

Technical faults will incur a 0.5% deduction from the final percentage mark as per Annex E. The deduction is from each judge and 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

- the first by – 0.5% from the total score of each judge
- the second by – 1.0% from the total score of each judge
- the third by elimination

FEI level tests

- first error – 0.5% from total score
 - second error – 1.0% 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 Athlete 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) the use of the Athlete's voice, referred to in [rule 2.18.1](#), is not an Error of Course
 - c) 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

The Chief Judge WILL ring the bell:

- when the Athlete enters the arena at the incorrect gait
- when the Athlete turns right instead of left or vice versa
- when the Athlete omits a movement
- 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

The Chief Judge need NOT ring the bell:

- when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa
 - when the Athlete makes a transition not clearly at the marker
- d) if the Chief Judge does ring the bell, they should show the Athlete 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 Athlete reaches the point where the error of course occurred
 - e) in principle, a Athlete 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)
 - f) however, if the Athlete 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
 - g) 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
 - h) if the judges have not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt
 - i) only the judge at C can ring the bell for a course error

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

4.21 Other technical faults with penalties – refer to Annex E

All of the following are considered technical faults and 0.5% will be deducted for each one, but they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including for Freestyle tests):

- a) an Athlete entering the space around the arena with boots on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves).
- b) if the test has already started before the above discrepancies have been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and, if needed and where possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete 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) an Athlete entering the arena before the sound of the bell
- d) an Athlete not entering the arena within 60 seconds after the bell
- e) an Athlete not saluting at either the first or last halt
- f) in Freestyle tests, an Athlete not giving the signal to start music within 60 seconds, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music
- g) if the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet 0.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score

All Athletes may salute with a nod of their head only, Hats must not be removed at the salute, and contact must be maintained with the reins.

Note – piaffe and passage may not be shown intentionally by Athletes at any time while riding their horse in the competition arena, prior during and immediately after the test. Contravening this rule may result in a warning card.

4.22 Lameness

In the instance of lameness displayed by the horse Athletes 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

4.23 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 Athlete skill 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:

- a) 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
- b) 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:

- a) first placed horses will be allocated 30 points
- b) second placed will be allocated 29 points
- c) third placed will be allocated 28 points and so on to the last placed horse
- d) competitors must compete in both tests at level to be eligible for champion points
- e) the Champion is the horse with the highest combined points of the two tests
- f) in the event of a tie, the Champion will be the horse with the highest aggregate percentage at that level
- g) 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.

4.24 Prize money

In regards to the 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

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

The EADC and EAPDC strongly recommends that a minimum of 2 appropriately qualified judges officiate at every Official Competitive competition.

NOTE: For Australian Championships and some other qualifications, competitors must submit 2 scores from official competitions with at least 2 judges officiating.

At the PD Australian Championships, EA tests will only be run if there are a minimum of 10 entries from combinations that have 2 scores of at least 65% from official competitions with two accredited PD judges,

Prior to the event

- Athletes 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 EAPDC when these exemptions are granted.

NOTE:

- this exception does not apply to the number of judges required for State or Australian Championships

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 EAPDC.

4.26 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 President of the Ground Jury/OC can request the Judge at C to stop the Competition
- e) the affected Athlete should return to complete their test from point of interruption when conditions so permit e.g. loose horse/lightning

4.27 Fall or injury to horse or Athlete

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

- a) it is the decision of the OC's designated first aid official to assess whether the Athlete may continue to compete at the event without first getting a medical clearance
- b) where a knock to the Athlete's head or body that transmits a force to the head is suspected, refer to 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 5 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

5.1 Authority to determine eligibility of horse and/or Athlete for competition

EA or affiliated organization conducting the Para 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 Athlete to compete in any particular level and may transfer any entry of any such horse or Athlete to any other level.

5.2 Entry of horses and Athletes

Only Athletes who have been classified (FEI or EA) may enter and compete in Official Para Dressage competitions. The Athlete needs to be listed on either the FEI or EA Master List, and profile allocated to them by an accredited classifier.

After the close of entries:

- a) any change of Athlete 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 Athlete of a horse may not be changed if another Athlete 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 Athlete who rides out of order in the draw without the approval from the OC or C judge will be eliminated
- f) Athletes with two horses in the draw must compete in the order that the horse/Athlete combination is drawn
- g) a horse may only be ridden by one Athlete for the entire event except where horses are shared, see [rule 4.4](#)
- 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

5.3 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

5.4 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 FEI tests, and EA PD level 3 and 4 tests, including Freestyle tests.
- b) Participation competitions using the level 1 and 2 EA tests from (excluding Freestyles).

5.5 Types of competitions at Restricted events

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

- competitions may include any level of EA Para Dressage tests, but are restricted to the conducting club's members only
- competition may also include club activities for club members against invited EA members to a maximum level of Participation competition,
- EA Para Dressage Rules apply to these events as per General Regulations Art 100

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

- 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
- All Official PD competitions are open to both horses and ponies.

5.6.1 Requirements for horses and ponies for Official Competitive competitions

Horses and ponies entered for Official Competitive competition:

- 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
- must have a current Competition Licence
- all horses and ponies competing:
 - must only enter and compete in no more than 2 tests per day. This includes open EA test as well as PD tests

5.6.2 Age of horses/ponies

In regard to the age of horses and ponies:

- horses/ponies must be aged 6 years or over to be eligible to compete in Para-Dressage. For Grand Prix tests the horses must be a minimum age as per the FEI rules.
- 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
- for horses born in the Southern Hemisphere,) 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.
- 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 August	From and after 1 August
Born	Before and until 31 July	$A = C - B$	$A = C - B + 1$
	From and after 1 August	$A = C - B - 1$	$A = C - B$

5.6.3 Age eligibility of Athletes

Athletes may be classified from the year in which they turn 12, and may enter Official EA Para Dressage competitions from the year they turn 12. For FEI competitions, Athletes may compete in FEI events from the year in which they turn the age of 14 years.

5.6.4 Stallions

Stallion Safe Practices Policy can be found here - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/stallion-safe-practice> . Colts/Stallions are not permitted to be ridden by Athletes under 18 years of age. Handlers of colts/stallions must be 18 years or older.

5.6.5 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 must be worn by stallions at all times at an event
 - e) green stallion identification discs or number holders must be clearly displayed on both sides of the stallion's head (attached to bridle or halter) or both sides of the saddle cloth on both sides of the breastplate: as per EA Stallion Safe Practices Policy
 - f) horse Identification numbers must be worn in addition to stallion discs, either as the green bridle identification number holder or the green 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, -0.50% per judge is deducted.

5.6.6 Conditions of Entry for Participation competitions

For Athletes wishing to compete in Participation level competitions:

- a) refer to the EA General Regulation for membership requirements
- b) the minimum age for Athletes is from the start of the year in which they turn 12
- c) one Athlete per horse is permitted at any event (except where shared horses are used as per rule 4.4)
- d) please refer to your state authority in relation to state-specific membership requirements
- e) refer to the EA General Regulations for any registration requirements
- f) there is no restriction on the height of the horse/pony

5.6.7 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
- c) Participation competitions can be conducted in conjunction with Competitive competitions
- d) affiliated organisations restricting competitions to their members only and using EA tests may only classify such competitions as Restricted events
- e) where the same test is offered for more than one membership category (e.g. Competitive and Participation) each entire competition must be judged separately
- f) each category may be conducted consecutively

5.7 Hors Concours (HC)

In relation to competing as Hors Concours:

- a) horses/ponies may compete HC at any grade at national level. HC is not permitted at FEI events.
- 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) for Official Competitive and Participant competitions all HC entries must comply in every way with the rules governing EA competitions
- e) a horse may only be entered and compete once in each Competitive or Participant competition (including HC entry)

5.8 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.

5.9 Conditions of Entry table

Conditions of Entry table		OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION COMPETITION	
		Official competition	Participation competition
HORSE or PONY	EA registered	Yes	No
	Competition Licence	Yes	No
	Official bridle number	Yes	No
	Min age of horse	6 Years old	As per Competitive
ATHLETE	Age – Minimum	Start of year turn 12	Start of year turn 12
	EA Membership	Yes	Min participant member with EA
TRAINER	Age – Minimum	18 years old	18 years old
	EA Membership	Min participant member with EA	Min participant member with EA
Max EA tests In one day (includes Official, Participation, Freestyles)		Max 2	Max 2

SECTION 6 FREESTYLES

The Freestyle to Music competitions which are dressage competitions performed to music chosen by the Athlete. There is a list of compulsory movements at each level that must be performed.

6.1 Entry, salute and timing

- a) freestyle tests are timed. Grades I, II and III are to be between 4 minutes and 4 minutes 30 seconds. Grades IV and V are to be between 4 minutes 30 seconds and 5 minutes.
- b) the Athlete must signal the sound technician after the bell has been rung
- c) once the bell has sounded the Athlete has 60 seconds, plus 30 seconds of entry music to enter the arena (total of 90 seconds)
- d) not giving the signal for the music to start within 60 seconds of the bell will incur a penalty of 0.5% from each judge
- e) entering the arena after 30 seconds of music will incur a penalty of 0.5% from each judge. Further failure to enter after 60 sec = elimination
- f) if there is no entry music this will not entail elimination, but it will affect the artistic mark
- g) if the Athlete enters the arena late, 0.5% shall be deducted by each judge from the score
- h) the music must cease at the final salute
- i) at the beginning and end of a Freestyle test a halt for the salute is compulsory and must be shown on the centre line in the direction of C
- j) the test time starts after the first halt and stops at the final salute
- k) if the test is clearly shorter or longer than the stipulated time limit on the test sheet, a technical fault of 0.5% deduction from each judge will be incurred, from the total artistic marks. For FEI freestyles -0.5% from the total artistic percentage
- l) slight failure to perform within the given time (approx. 10 seconds) should be treated generously without a deduction of marks, especially if unusual circumstances (such as external distractions or bad conditions of the ground) occur

6.2 Music

6.2.1 Technical failure

In the case of a Athlete's music failing during a Freestyle test:

- a) where there is no back-up system, the Athlete can, with the permission of the Chief Judge, leave the arena
- b) the Chief Judge, after conferring with the Athlete, will determine when the Athlete must return to the arena
- c) there should be minimum interference with starting times of other Athletes
- d) the affected Athlete should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition or as directed by the President of the Ground Jury
- e) the Athlete may decide whether to take up the test at the point where the music failed, or to start again
- f) if the Athlete chooses to start again, all marks on the sheet must stay as originally given up to that point
- g) when the music failed, and from then on judge as normal
- h) if the music stops towards the end and all the technical marks have been already filled in by the judge, then the judge will judge on the music up to that point
- i) if the music stops half-way and the Athlete does not have another CD and all technical requirements
- j) have not been completed the Athlete must retire

6.2.2 Guidelines for Athletes and OCs

- a) music must be provided on a CD or otherwise as specified by the OC (e.g. USB stick)
- b) Athletes have the right to request the OC for a sound check on their music
- c) it is recommended that Athletes have a back-up copy of their music with them at the event.
- d) each music source must clearly show the name of the Athlete and horse
- e) it is recommended to have a timekeeper/course watcher, especially in FEI-level Freestyle tests

6.3 How to judge a Freestyle – Guidelines for Judges

The judge must be confident the writer knows all the compulsory movements and how to record the marks.

- a) half marks (0.5) for the technical may be used at the discretion of the Judge
- b) 0.1 decimals may be used for the artistic marks at the discretion of the Judge
- c) a mark should be given each time a compulsory movement is shown. This mark must be placed in the relevant area on the test sheet
- d) as some compulsory movements will be shown more than once, therefore gaining more than one mark, there could be several marks for one required movement
- e) at the completion of each test the Judge will decide the final mark to be awarded for each movement e.g. for flying changes a horse is awarded 6.0, 7.0, 7.0, 6.0 (divide the total of the 4 marks by 4 to come to the final mark = 6.5)

6.4 Artistic marks

The five artistic marks are scored by 0.1 increments (i.e. 7.8) and multiplied by their coefficients:

- 1) Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity
- 2) Harmony between Athlete and horse
- 3) Riding Skills
- 4) Choreography
- 5) Music and interpretation of the music

The total of the artistic performance is found by adding the five final marks, multiplied by their coefficients.

All artistic marks are more or less dependent on the quality of the technical execution. It is especially important that the artistic marks for the following should correlate with the technical score:

- Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity
- Harmony between Athlete and horse
- Riding Skills

In addition, the marks for the following can be negatively influenced in cases of resistance, disobedience and disturbance:

- Choreography
- Music and interpretation of the music

If the music does not match the paces, transitions or the final salute, the mark for music must be reduced.

For further deductions in the case of omissions or a wrong execution see below.

NOTE – In para dressage freestyle competitions, there is no Degree of Difficulty

6.5 Execution of movements

Please refer to each freestyle sheet at relevant level for the compulsory movements required. Para Dressage and Freestyle Tests are graded according to suitability for the Athletes in the five (5) Grades (I, II, III, IV and V). All Grades should be included if possible. The following are what level of movements are shown at each grade:

- a) In Grade I Tests, Athletes compete at walk.
- b) In Grade II Tests, Athletes compete at walk and trot.
- c) In Grade III Tests, Athletes compete at walk and trot.
- d) In Grade IV Tests, Athletes compete at walk, trot, with lateral work, and canter.
- e) In Grade V Tests, Athletes compete at walk, trot and canter with lateral work.

6.5.1 The following movements are not permitted:

- a) Athletes riding in Grade I and II may not show Canter, Piaffe or Passage.
- b) Athletes riding in Grade III may not show Piaffe or Passage and only show canter work that does not include lateral work, flying changes, Half or Full Pirouettes.
- c) Athletes riding in Grade IV may not show Piaffe, Passage, sequence changes or Half or full canter Pirouettes.
- d) Athletes riding in Grade V may not show Piaffe, Passage, one (1) time or two (2) times sequence changes or Full Pirouettes.

6.5.2 Intentionally showing disallowed movements

An Athlete intentionally showing disallowed paces or movements during the execution of the Test will have eight (8) marks deducted by each Judge each time a not allowed movement is shown, and a choreography mark of five.five (5.5) or below, but will not be eliminated. The decision of the Judge at C will be final in such cases.

On the Test sheet there is a list of compulsory movements that must be included in the Test. On noticing that a compulsory movement has been omitted, the members of the Ground Jury judging that class will each give zero (0) for that movement. The mark for choreography will also be affected. The decision of the C Judge will be final in such cases.

6.6 Omissions or movements of a higher level

- a) if a compulsory movement has been left out completely and deliberately, the judge has to give a zero (0) for this movement
- b) the score for choreography cannot be higher than 5.5
- c) it is up to the judge to go lower in the choreography if more than one movement has been left out
- d) if a competitor deliberately shows movements of a higher level not mentioned in the test sheet no mark for the technical execution of that movement is possible
- e) the score choreography cannot be higher than 5.5
- f) it is up to the judge to go lower on choreography if more than one movement of a higher level has been deliberately shown
- g) the combination will not be eliminated for showing a movement of a higher level

6.6.1 Examples of movement of a higher level –Refer to Table 6.8 for PE Freestyle rules

6.7 Scoring of Freestyles

- a) In the case of equality (ties) in a Freestyle test for the first 3 places, the higher artistic marks will decide on the better placing. In the case of equality for remaining places the Athletes are given the same placing
- b) interim scores/final scores for Freestyles must show both technical and artistic marks for each judge

6.8 Para Dressage Freestyle guide – Compulsory/Permitted/Not Permitted movements for Freestyles –

This table only applies to FEI tests. For EA tests, refer to the requirements of those tests.

MOVEMENT	Grade I			Grade II			Grade III			Grade IV			Grade V		
	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted
HALT															
Entry and halt - beginning and end	✓			✓			✓			✓			✓		
WALK															
Medium walk	✓10m min			✓10m min			Included in voltes			✓ 20m min					
Medium walk on centre line	✓20m min				✓									✓	
Stretch walk on longer rein	✓20m min			✓20m min			✓ 20m min							✓	
Collected walk		✓			✓								✓ 20m min		
Extended walk		✓			✓					✓ 20m min			✓ 20m min		
Medium walk Volte 8m left and right	✓			✓			✓							✓	
Medium walk Volte 10m left and right	✓				✓			✓						✓	
Medium Walk serpentine 3 loops 5m each side of centre line	✓				✓			✓						✓	
Transitions	✓ within the pace			✓within & between paces			✓within & between paces			✓within & between paces			✓within & between paces		
Medium walk Leg yield to right and left		✓		✓				✓			✓			✓	
Half turn on the haunches		✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Half Pirouette		✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Pirouette			x			x			x			x			x

MOVEMENT	Grade I			Grade II			Grade III			Grade IV			Grade V		
	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted
TROT															
Working		✓		✓				✓			N/A			N/A	
Collected		✓			✓		✓			✓			✓		
Moderate lengthen		✓		✓5m continuous				N/A			N/A			N/A	
Medium		✓			✓		✓			✓				✓	
Extended		✓			✓			✓			✓		✓		
Working Trot – 10m circle left & right		✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Working Trot – 20m circle left & right		✓		✓				✓			✓			✓	
Shoulder-in left and right		✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		
Working trot serpentine		✓		2 loops touching long side			3 loops 3-5 steps walk over centreline								
				✓			✓								
Half-Pass left and right		✓			✓			✓			✓		✓		
Leg-yield left and right		✓			✓		✓				✓			N/A	

MOVEMENT	Grade I			Grade II			Grade III			Grade IV			Grade V		
	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted	Compulsory	Permitted	Not Permitted
CANTER															
Collected canter			x			x		✓		✓			✓		
Medium canter										✓				✓	
Extended canter			x			x		✓			✓		✓		
Counter-canter left and right			x			x		✓		✓ 20m min				✓	
Half-Pass – left and right			x			x			x		✓		✓		
Change lead through 3-5 steps trot left and right			x			x		✓		✓				✓	
Simple change of leg – left and right			x			x		✓			✓		✓		
Single flying change of leg – left-right, right-left			x			x			x		✓			✓	
Flying change of leg every 4th stride			x			x			x			x		✓	
Flying change of leg every 3rd stride			x			x			x			x		✓	
Flying change of leg every 2nd stride			x			x			x			x			x
Flying change of leg every stride			x			x			x			x			x
Half Pirouette			x			x			x			x		✓	
Full Pirouette			x			x			x			x			x
PIAFFE PASSAGE															
Piaffe			x			x			x			x			x
Passage			x			x			x			x			x

SECTION 7 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 Athletes, 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

7.1 Ground Jury

The Ground Jury consists of all of the judges at the event.

The Ground Jury:

- a) must be drawn from the current list
- b) may include suitably accredited visiting overseas judges
- c) It is recommended that the President of the Ground Jury be appointed each day at an event. The President of the Ground Jury should be:
 - The judge positioned at C for the highest-level competition during the event.
 - Appointed by the OC prior to the start of the event and preferably noted on the draw.
 - Named each day of the event but may not necessarily be the same person.
 - Available from the start of the day to the end of the day, or if this is not possible, for the first half or second half of each day at an event.

7.1.1 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 technical problems (in consultation with the appointed President of the Ground Jury) that may arise during the course of the event that come under their jurisdiction within the Field of Play
- d) referring any written protests received for 'Horse Abuse' to the OC (refer 1.3.1)
- e) referring any technicalities or matters that are beyond the Ground Jury's jurisdiction to the President of the Ground Jury, Chief Steward, or TD, if appointed at the event in question.
- f) If a TD is not appointed, the President of the Ground Jury may act in the capacity of the TD to settle any issues that may arise within the Field of Play and the whole grounds during the event. This should be carried out in consultation with the Chief Steward, as appropriate.

The President of the Ground Jury also:

- has the authority to issue a Recorded Warning (1.6.3)
 - may refer any incident, which is beyond their jurisdiction, to the OC in the form of a written protest
- g) the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by OC should approve and sign off the results noting the time of official posting.
 - h) 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
 - i) the members of the Ground Jury must not consider 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

7.2 Appeal Committee

No appeal committee required. It is the decision of the Organising Committee to determine if one is to be created.

7.3 Chef d'Equipe

Where State or Australian teams are entered, a Chef d'Equipe must be appointed. This is compulsory for Australian Championship 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 Athletes representing their state or nation
- b) confirming stabling, accommodation and travel arrangements of Athletes
- 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 Athletes 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 Athletes 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 EAPDC
- j) all communication with the OC, including protests on behalf of the team.

7.4 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 Para Dressage accredited Stewards exist:

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

7.4.1 All events running Para tests should ideally have Para accredited Steward in attendance.

Exemptions for Club events can be applied for in writing by contacting the EA Para Dressage Committee a minimum of 7 days prior to the event.

7.4.2 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 the following functions:

- a) checking the adaptive equipment (compensating aids) of each Athlete
- b) timing any trainers riding horses in grades I, II or III
- c) checking each competitor off the draw
- d) check competition arenas set-up, safety, surface
- e) communicate with the organising committee
- f) guiding the Athlete on the legality of the saddlery, equipment and dress referred to in Section 3, and the current equipment annex
- g) 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

- h) 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 Athlete or their agent
- i) 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
- j) consulting with the Chief Steward or, in their absence, a member of the Ground Jury the Chief Judge if doubt exists regarding any item of saddlery or other equipment
- k) 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
- l) 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
- m) every consideration must be given to not disturbing the harmony of the horse and Athlete prior to them entering the competition area
- n) only the Athlete 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 Athlete or their agent must make the necessary adjustments
- o) it remains the full responsibility of the Athlete to comply with the equipment rules as outlined
- p) when an accredited steward has been appointed, if a Athlete does not have their gear checked they will incur elimination
- q) 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)
- r) at club level if an accredited steward is appointed they should advise and supervise the volunteer gear checkers
- s) supervise warm-up areas
- t) ensure welfare of the horse is paramount
- u) the issue of yellow warning cards where warranted.

7.4.2.1 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 Chief Steward 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 Athlete 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 Athlete or their agent must make the necessary adjustments Refer to [Section 3 rule 3.20](#) for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment
- i) the gear checker must not touch the horse or Athlete unless under the supervision of an Accredited Steward.

Refer to [Section 3 rule 3.20](#) for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment

7.5 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.. Refer to [Annex G – Payments for Officials](#) - for the current per diem

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 Athletes, 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

7.6 FEI Steward

A Para Dressage accredited FEI Steward is to be appointed for FEI-sanctioned events, such as CPEDIs.

SECTION 8 RULES FOR OFFICIALS JUDGES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES (OCS)

8.1 Recommendation/Guidelines for organising committees running Para Dressage events

- a) It is advisable that the timetable for competitions to start with the Grade IV and Grade V followed by Grades. I, II and III not necessarily in that order. Timing and weather conditions may necessitate this to be varied, in the interests of the grade I, II and III Athletes
- b) weather conditions are to be taken into consideration
- c) depending on entries, allow 15–20-minute breaks between competitions
- d) draw lists with judges' timetable/test and judging positions must be sent prior to start of competition to judges/classifiers (if required)
- e) daily honorarium for transport to and from, and special food requirements to be confirmed before the event
- f) notify scorers and commentator of updated draw changes – check daily before competitions commence
- g) updated draws to be available to the stewards/judges/classifiers the day before if possible and notify competitors and supporters of changes
- h) ensure that a bell (used in indoor/outdoor competitions) can be heard as some Athletes may have a hearing impairment
- i) provide a stopwatch for the Judge at C for all competitions
- j) make an official scratching form available for Athletes/owners and treating veterinary officer (if present).
- k) site plan of venue to be sent to all officials and included in the Athlete information pack
- l) special attention needs to be taken to provide suitable and accessible facilities for people with disabilities at appropriate areas. Where possible, near on-site accommodation, arenas and stables
- m) facilities should include:
 - accessible mounting block/ramp
 - accessible toilet
 - if classifiers are present, a room is to be allocated as per the FEI/EA PD rules
 - results are to be located in an accessible location – keep in mind people in wheelchairs
- n) a pack should be provided for the Chief Judge and the Chief Steward which includes stewards' phone contacts, latest draws, stable allocations, current adaptive equipment (compensating aids) list, plus a copy of current EA rules pertaining to Para Dressage
- o) Annex D outlines the requirements for arena familiarisation and warm up for Para Dressage Competitions.

The guide below summarises various rules and sections of the EA Para dressage rules. All judges and event organisers must have access to a current rule book.

8.2 Para Dressage Guidelines

RULE	GUIDELINES	
Warming up before test	A maximum of 1 hour schooling is permitted per day Grades I, II, III – a designated person until 15 minutes before the commencement of the test	1 hour includes time of Athlete and trainer combined. Warming up 30 minutes in total for Grade I, II and III by a designated person (trainer) - steward must be present
	Athlete only for Grades IV and V	No other person permitted
Time allowed to enter arena	60 seconds after sound of bell	
Salute	One or two hands on rein, nod of the head, hats must not be removed	
Commander for FEI- sanctioned events	Can read the words twice. May not carry a whip and must stand in one place	Must be on the FEI PD Master List. Steward must stand beside and monitor the commander

Commander for EA events (in Australia usually referred to as callers)	Can read the words twice May not carry a whip and must stand in one place	All grades in all competitions except in State and National Championships and CPEDI's
Lead Caller also Commander	For Blind Athletes, only the lead caller may command the test and must stand still	Max of 4 callers, all except for the lead caller may move
Use of voice	Grades I, II and III	Reservedly
	Grades IV and V	Not permitted unless on the FEI/EA PD Master List
Live Letters (Callers)	Live letters for visually impaired Athletes	Must be noted on FEI/EA PD Master List C Judge to control use of commanders and entry procedures
Visually impaired Athletes Grade III IV and V	Permitted prior to start of test to enter arena and proceed once each way around the arena	Must wear a distinctive coloured arm band when mounted both inside and outside the competition arena A maximum of 4 Callers permitted
Resistance	60 seconds	Safety factor allows for 60 seconds or less
Rising trot	Permitted in all grades	
Companion horse	Grade I, II and III only	C Judge and steward to control placement of companion horse in the arena
Spurs	permitted in all grades	
Bridle	Snaffle or double, all Grades	Split reins used with double bridle are a standard compensating aid. The connection must be a minimum of 30cm from the bit.
Whips	Length 1.2 m incl. tassel / 1m pony May be curved	Any variation will be on the FEI/EA PD Master List
Adaptive equipment (compensating aids)	Non Standard, permitted adaptive equipment (compensating aids) are recorded on the FEI/EA PD Master List/ or EA PD Master List	OC to provide a list of aids to Gear Steward and each judge
Errors of Course	Third error = Elimination	
Hats with harness secured	Compulsory to comply with EA regulations	
Gloves	If possible	
Fall of horse or Athlete	The Athlete is eliminated	
Blood/abuse	Fresh blood visible during the test, Chief judge to check and if fresh – elimination	If not fresh blood, then after being checked the horse may continue with the test
Leaving the arena with all four feet	In a wilful manner, causing loss of control = Elimination	Unintentionally directed, allow Athlete to re-enter the arena and continue
Marked lameness	Elimination by Chief Judge	
Horse defecating or urinating	In Freestyle, the clock will be stopped and restarted when horse is ready to continue	
Ear Hoods	Permitted for all events	May also provide noise reduction. Must not cover the horse's eyes and ear plugs are NOT permitted May not be attached to the nose band

False Tails	Permitted only with the approval of the FEI	Permitted if not weighted for EA
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8.3 Positioning judges around the arena

Bearing in mind the need to fully observe all movements, the placement of judges around the arena should be as close as possible to the guide below:

Judge	Outdoor arena	Indoor arena
C	maximum 5m/minimum 3m back	preferably minimum 3m back
M H, K	maximum 5m/minimum 3 m back and 2.5 m in from long side	prefer minimum 3m back and 2.5m in from long side
E, B	maximum 5 m/minimum 3m back	prefer minimum 3m back

- the positioning of judges allows different aspects of a movement to be obtained
- if judges of a lower level are not yet confident, shadow judging at side positions should be encouraged to gain confidence
- keep in mind the position of the sun when placing judges at E or B. Subsequently the judge on the long side should be allotted their position first
- where 2 judges are used and the layout of the arena allows, 1 judge must sit at E or B
- where 3 judges are used and the layout of the arena allows, 1 judge must sit on the long side diagonally opposite the M or H Judge on the short side

Number of Judges	Position on arena
1	positioned at C (Chief Judge)
2	second judge may be positioned at B, E, M or H
3	one judge must be placed at B or E when a judge is placed at H/M, a judge placed at E/B must be placed diagonally opposite the judge at M/H
5	positioned at C, M, B, E and H

8.4 Inspection of arenas

The judge/s must physically inspect the arena to ensure that:

- the arena is of a satisfactory standard with a low continuous fence of about 0.3 m made of materials compliant with EA rules, and if necessary have it modified
- the marker letters are the correct distance from the outside of the arena (about 0.5 m) and in the correct position
- the letter A must be placed at least 10–15 m back from the entry, where possible
- this marker must not be put to one side but must be centred to be in line with C

Once the competition has commenced, the conditions must remain (as much as possible) the same for all.

8.5 Scale of marks

Refer to rule 4.15

8.6 Errors of Course

Refer to rule 4.20

8.7 Allocation of marks and scoring

- a) each judge must allot from 10–0 marks for each numbered movement
- b) 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
- c) in Young Horse competitions, and in the artistic marks for Freestyle competitions marks to a single decimal point may be used (e.g. trot 7.8)
- d) these marks are then added together and any errors of course are deducted
- e) it is essential that errors of course are deducted from each individual judge's score before it is totalled. Individual scores are converted to % scores, and technical faults are then deducted
- f) total percentages to the 3rd decimal point for each judge must be clearly shown in results lists and on notice boards, together with the average percentage of all judges also to the 3rd decimal point
- g) the judge should give a remark for a mark of 5 or below
- h) a remark for all marks is recommended
- i) any alterations to marks must be initialled by the judge in ink
- j) where there is a difference of 5% or more between individual judges, the Chief Judge must initiate a brief discussion between the judges, preferably with scoresheets available where possible
- k) where there is a difference of 5% or more in the FEI levels between individual judges, the Chief Judge should initiate discussion between the judges
- l) under no circumstances are marks to be altered once the test sheet has been completed and collected from the judge
- m) the only instances that a test sheet is to be returned to the relevant judge are as follows:
 - the test sheet has not been signed
 - an altered mark has not been initialled
 - a mark has been missed
 - the scorers are unable to decipher a mark due to bad writing
 - where there are two or more judges and an error of course has been omitted by a judge
- n) judges are not to approach the scorers to look at test sheets during the competition, nor check results electronically until the completion of the competition
- o) it is recommended that judges do not look at scores on the scoreboard during the judging of a competition
- p) judges are not to discuss performances in public or at the scoreboard
- q) scoring should not be visible to the judges during a test. A running score (total average percentage) and open scoring (average marks per movement for all judges) to the audience is permitted

8.8.1 Incapacity of a judge

Where a member of the Ground Jury becomes incapable to judge before or during the competition (parts of the test or more), their scores will be removed from the result list of the whole competition. Where it is the C Judge that is incapacitated, the other judge/s must remain in their original judging position. One of the remaining judges will assume the responsibilities of the Chief Judge from their original position.

8.8 Unmarked movement

- a) if a mark has not been recorded and the judge cannot recall the movement, or cannot be found, or if a Athlete omits a movement and has left the arena, the mark allotted should be the average of the collective marks at the end. In relation to the FEI tests where there is only one collective mark the average of the body of the test, excluding the collective, should be made
- b) for both EA and FEI tests – if a Athlete omits/forgets a movement and the Judge at C doesn't notice (i.e. at the end of the test there is a mark missing and the Athlete has left the arena) a mark equal to the average for the whole test (excluding collectives) is given, with no error of course, as the judge would have been responsible for stopping them

8.9 Protocol for judges accepting invitations to judge

When accepting invitations to judge an event, a judge must:

- a) declare their interest in any person or horse who, within the past 12 months immediately preceding the event, they have:
 - trained
 - owned/part owned
 - had any other business interest in
- b) even if the Athlete competes HC, a judge with a conflict of interest is unable to officiate in that competition
- c) check details that are important to them and advise organisers of their requirements at the time of first contact
- d) be definite and clear about their expectations. This does NOT include continually judging at only highest level of accreditation
- e) ask for a contact name, phone number and e-mail address, and request that details be confirmed in writing within the next fortnight
- f) follow up two weeks prior to the competition if arrangements have not already been confirmed
- g) let the organisers know of any unavoidable changes to their availability as soon as possible
- h) arrive at the venue 30 minutes before starting time
- i) must have their rulebook with them
- j) advise the organisers prior to the day of the competition if they are bringing their own pencil/writer
- k) advise the organisers if you require a car (if applicable)
- l) remember the dressage event is a joint effort between organisers, competitors and other judges and all deserve to be treated with equal respect and courtesy
- m) when accepting a judging commitment make sure they agree on travelling allowance and honorarium and make the OC aware of the distance they have to travel
- n) be aware that if they have more than a 2 hour drive to the venue they have the right to ask for accommodation the night before (e.g. if starting before 10.30 am, likewise if they are to finish after 6.30 pm) and the same should apply in reverse
- o) adhere to the code of conduct, as well as the dress code (at least smart casual and no work jeans) as matter of respect for all involved in the competition
- p) make themselves available to discuss test results with individual Athletes and make it known to the OC when they are available so that it can be announced over the PA
- q) be aware that discussion with an Athlete about an individual horse/Athlete test can only take place if the Athlete has their test sheet/electronic result with them
- r) know the EA Disciplinary By-Law and know what action to take should it occur (i.e. rules as per abuse of horse, Athlete, judge, etc.) For more information see www.equestrian.org.au
- s) insist on the ruling of receiving a draw at the same time as the competitors in order to be aware of any conflicts so that the OC can be advised as quickly as possible. The draw must indicate the breaks and lunch break as well as comply with the 30 horses per competition and 40-horse limit per day rule
- t) ask for a mobile number to contact on the day of competition should they be delayed (flat tyre, accident, etc) on the way to the venue
- u) offer assistance to the OC should it be necessary prior to the competition with regards to rules and regulations re arenas, footing, risk and safety

Other things to note:

- v) a judge is expected to judge what they see in a fair and unbiased way and avoid any personal comments, such as 'have seen horse go better'
- w) a judge's commitment to judge is paramount and should only be broken if circumstances beyond their control intervene
- x) should such circumstances arise, a judge must try to provide organisers with the name of a replacement who is willing to take their place

8.10.1 Risk management and dogs

- a) dogs or other distractions are not permitted in the car or judging box with judges
- b) judges must apply risk management and safety principles at all times, and act accordingly

8.10 Guidelines for reimbursement - Out-of-pocket expenses for judges, accredited FEI/EA Stewards

It is required that judges, officials, accredited FEI stewards and EA stewards will receive an honorarium as reimbursement of expenses. However, the official and OC may negotiate a mutually suitable arrangement at time of invitation. Refer to Annex G – Payment for Officials – for current per diem

8.11 General items

- a) when selecting writers for International FEI Competitions:
 - first preference should go to Judge Educators and Mentors
 - second preference should go to other senior judges eligible to supervise shadow judging
 - third preference should go to current PE judges
- b) no judge should be expected to judge more than 35 horses/day
- c) if a judge is required to judge more than one PD competition, ideally there should be a minimum of 10 minutes between the last horse in one competition and the first horse in the next
- d) OCs should provide a quiet area, away from the scoreboard, where judges can be given access to a duplicate copy of the full results, and individual judges marks for their perusal
- e) judges must stay on the grounds for a period of at least 30 minutes after the posting of the placings, so the results should be collated as quickly as possible
- f) the use of electronic communication, including mobile phones, is not permitted while horse and Athlete are in the arena. The use of mobile phones and digital scoring system features are permitted however, only for the use of communication between judges for the purpose of identifying and agreeing on technical issues such as presence of blood, potential lameness, errors of course and other technical issues

8.12 Draw

- a) at least 72 hours before the start of the event, competitors and judges are to be:
 - sent a copy of the draw by e-mail or post, or
 - advised by e-mail when the draw is available along with details of a web address for access to the draw
- b) the draw is to include the name/s of the judges for each competition to ascertain any conflict of interest
- c) the draw should allow for at least a 15 minute break for judges after every 10 horses judged

8.13 Competitions

Judges must be aware that at competitions:

- a) a horse/pony may only enter and compete in the Athlete's classified grade
- b) a horse/pony may only enter and compete in no more than 2 tests in a day, which may include a freestyle test

8.14 Results

- a) results must be shown in percentages only (not total marks) to 3 decimal places for each judge, then averaged to achieve a final percentage score
 - b) scores should be updated on the scoreboard at very regular intervals, and final results should be made available as soon as possible at the completion of a test
 - c) final results must be signed off by the Chief Judge prior to posting
 - d) competitors must have access to their test sheet/s at the same time as the final results are posted
 - e) final result sheets should be given to each judge at the end of competition
 - f) if a Athlete withdraws prior to a competition, is excused, eliminated or a 'no show' prior to or during the performance of a test, the words 'withdrawn'/'eliminated'/'no show' or abbreviations must appear after the Athlete's name on the result sheet
- A discussion between the judges must take place where there are discrepancies in the marks.

SECTION 9 AUSTRALIAN/STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FEI- SANCTIONED EVENTS

9.1 Australian Para Dressage Championships

9.1.1 Administration

The Australian Para Dressage Championships or CPEDI3* may be conducted as a stand-alone competition or in conjunction with a dressage event of similar status (i.e. Australian Young Athlete Championships, a State Dressage Championship, a CDI). It is strongly recommended that the Australian PD championships be run in conjunction with the Australian Dressage Championships, however if this is not always be possible, they may run in conjunction with another major event.

- a) the draft schedule must be submitted to the EAPDC for approval at least 6 months prior to the event
- b) all grades of FEI Para Dressage competitions I, II, III, IV and V and Freestyle and Virtus Performance Level competitions – must be included
- c) there must be 3 FEI competitions at each grade:
 - 1. Grand Prix B, Grand Prix A and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test.
 - 2. FEI Intermediate tests (2 at each grade) and optional FEI Intermediate Freestyle test.
 - 3. FEI Novice tests (2 at each grade) and optional FEI Novice Freestyle test.
- d) Qualification criterion may be set by the EAPDC annually. FEI criteria relating to eligibility for the Team(Grand Prix) and Individual (Special) tests should be taken into account. (min 60% at Novice(Intermediate)) Eligibility for Virtus Performance Level to consider Virtus International Guidelines with a minimum requirement of 60% in 2 Virtus International Performance Level Video tests in the preceding 12 months.
- e) other levels and tests may also be included (e.g. EA National Para Dressage tests & Virtus Development Level Dressage tests) for each grade. Qualification requirements as prescribed by the EAPDC may be set annually.
- f) a horse/Athlete combination must compete in either the FEI tests or the National Para dressage tests for their grade but not both
- g) the closing date of entries must be not more than 6 weeks and not less than 4 weeks before the start of the Championships
- h) there must be a timed draw made available to competitors for EA competitions – at least 24 hours before the competition commences
 - for FEI-sanctioned competitions – as required under FEI rules
- h) the competitor's state of origin must be included in the start list, draw and program
- i) all Athletes competing in either FEI PD tests, EA PD dressage tests or Virtus tests must be classified
- j) a copy of the Athletes FEI/EA PD/Virtus Master List and national list is to be provided to the Chief Steward and all judges

9.1.2 Conditions of Entry

- a) horses may be shared by two Athletes in different grades. For competition run under FEI rules, FEI rules relating to shared horses and schooling will apply,
- b) all horses, owned or shared, in Grades I, II and III may only be warmed up at the competition by the trainer/coach/groom or other designated Athlete

9.1.3 Competition conditions

- a) no test may be commanded unless specified on the Athlete's FEI/EA PD Master List or national list
Note: Virtus athletes are allowed callers and commanders as they are considered to be standard aids for Virtus athletes.
- b) for the duration of the event, horses entered in the Championship may only be ridden and schooled by the Athlete/s competing on that horse (except for those horses of Athletes in Grades I, II and III whose horses may be schooled by another Athlete for up to 30 minutes per day)
- c) a groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long rein for grades IV and V only
- d) lunging or work in-hand by someone other than the nominated Athlete is permitted
- e) Horses may not be schooled from the ground whilst a Athlete is mounted

9.1.4 Withdrawals

- a) no competitor shall withdraw from a competition within 8 hours of its commencement without the permission of the OC
- b) a written statement giving reasons for any withdrawal must be handed to the Secretary of the event prior to the commencement of the competition
- c) the penalty for non-compliance is a maximum fine of AU\$200
- d) horses withdrawn may be subject to a veterinary inspection

9.1.5 State teams

- a) team entries must be made by state branches before the closing date of entries
- b) a state teams' competition is to be held across all grades
- c) declaration of the team must be made in writing to the OC by the relevant Chefs d'Equipe by 5.00 pm the day before the start of the event
- d) the FEI Grand Prix B test will count towards a state team's score
- e) a team shall consist of three horses and three Athletes that are residents and members of that state
- f) a horse may only compete in one team
- g) only one team per state may be nominated
- h) in the case of accident or illness, a nominated individual Athlete and/or horse, which have been declared as a starter, may be substituted for one of the team member Athletes and/or horses up to one hour before the start of the relevant competition. If the withdrawal is caused by the illness of the Athlete, they may take no further part on any horse in the event
- i) if the withdrawal is based on veterinary advice the horse may take no further part in the event.
- j) in the latter case the nominated Athlete is permitted to fulfil other riding engagements on other horses
- k) the Athlete and/or horse that has had to withdraw, may not then start as an individual entry from the time of withdrawal for the remainder of the event
- l) the winning team is the one having the highest total score, the second is the one with the next highest total score, and so on
- m) in case of equality of marks, the winning team is the one where the lowest level competitor has the best result
- n) where there are insufficient entries to enable a state team to be entered, the smaller states may combine to enter a mixed state team.

9.2 Officials

9.2.1 Chef d'Equipe

- a) a state which is represented by two or more competitors at an Australian Championship must appoint a Chef d'Equipe
- b) the Chef d'Equipe is responsible for all the competitors and horses entered for that state
- c) protests may only be lodged by the relevant Chef d'Equipe
- d) please refer to Section 6 for further information on the role

9.2.2 Judges

- a) there must be at least 2 judges from overseas or interstate
- b) Australian judges must be accredited EA or FEI qualified Para dressage judges, with at least a minimum of 3 years PD experience.
- c) overseas judges must be on the official Para dressage judges list of the country in which they are residing
- d) there must be at least 3 judges for each competition
- e) wherever possible, different judging combinations should be used for each competition and the judges should rotate their positions
- f) accommodation and travelling expenses must be paid for all judges not residing in the host state, unless there is some special arrangement
- g) a reserve PD judge should be available at the venue each day

9.2.3 Stewards

It is compulsory that an accredited EA/FEI Para Dressage Steward be appointed to oversee the application of permitted adaptive equipment (compensating aids) and the riding of horses belonging to Athletes in Grades I, II and III by other than the nominated Athlete.

9.2.4 Appeal Committee

No Appeal Committee is required.

9.2.5 Technical Delegate

The President of the PD Ground Jury takes on the role of the Technical Delegate (TD).

9.3 Classification

FEI or EA accredited National Classifiers must be invited to the Australian Championships if this is an event that has been identified as a Classification opportunity. Virtus classification is managed by Sport Inclusion Australia and must be obtained prior to the closing date of the event.

- a) classification will be offered at the discretion of the OC/NF
- b) the Classifiers should be invited to attend 24 hours prior to the draw in order to complete athlete evaluation for New or Review athletes and must remain until the first appearance of all Classified Athletes.

9.4 Organising Committee report

A written report must be submitted by the OC to the first meeting of the EADC after the conclusion of the Championships.

9.5 Horse inspections and swabbing

- a) all such inspections will be conducted in accordance with Article 1011 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations and Annex I of the FEI Dressage Rule Book
- b) horse inspections will be held for all horses whenever an Australian Championships is conducted in conjunction with a CPEDI
- c) swabbing must be conducted in accordance with the EA National Medication Control Policy and General Regulations.

9.6 Presentations and Prize Giving

- a) the presentation areas must be accessible by all Athletes
- b) presentations should be unmounted, safety is paramount
- c) Athlete to dress in competition attire
- d) the Australian Champion for each grade is the combination that achieves the highest points in the Individual test and the Freestyle test

- e) championships are to be decided on points system
 - the first placed horse will be allocated 30 points
 - the second placed horse will be allocated 29 points
 - the third placed horse will be allocated 28 points and so on to the last placed horse
- f) all competing horses will be ranked on the combined results of tests at each level
- g) in the event of a tie, the Champion will be the horse with the highest aggregate percentage at that level
- h) 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
- i) published daily timetables for presentation are advisable

9.7 Ground facilities

- a) stabling for visiting horses must be provided on or close to the competition grounds
- b) significant consideration must be given to accessibility with regard to stables, human accommodation, catering, trade village and venue facilities such as toilets, first aid room and event office
- c) apart from the competition arenas, a full sized, 60m x 20m that can be adapted to 40m x 20m for Grades I, II and III, of a similar surface to the competition arena shall be available for warming-up purposes
- d) Disabled toilets, showers and accessible facilities should be available
- e) It is highly recommended that all venues that run Para Dressage competitions provide suitable mounting arrangements to facilitate the Athlete getting on the horse.

9.8 State Para Dressage Championships

In regards to the State Championships:

- a) competitors must be Participant or Competitive members
- b) all PD Athletes must be classified
- c) a TD is no longer required. The President of the Ground Jury will carry that responsibility
- d) there must be at least 3 accredited PD judges for each competition, unless exemption granted by EAPDC
- e) it is advisable to have a reserve judge available

9.9 FEI-sanctioned events /Competitions

Refer to the FEI Para Dressage Rules 8347 for details re international events as well as the rules for FEI Dressage at www.FEI.org

The following rules from 9.10 to 9.24 apply to the Australian Para Dressage Championships unless they are referred from FEI rulings that include the national championships of various nations.

9.10 Administration

In regards to the administration for the Australian Dressage Championships:

- a) a draft schedule must be submitted to the EAPDC for approval at least 6 months prior to the event
- b) there must be two competitions only at each level (excluding freestyle tests)
- c) all levels of FEI-level competitions must be included
- d) a maximum of 30 horses may start in any competition
- e) the closing date of entries must be not more than 6 weeks and not less than 4 weeks before the start of the Championships
- f) there must be a timed draw made available to competitors for:
 - EA competitions – at least 24 hours before the competition commences
 - FEI-sanctioned competitions – as required under FEI rules
- g) the judge's and competitor's state of origin must be included in the state list, draw and program.

9.11 Conditions of Entry

In regards to the Conditions of Entry for the Australia Para Dressage Championships the following applies:

- a) all qualifying scores must have been obtained in Official Competitive competitions
- b) horses may only enter two tests per day

9.12 Competition conditions

- a) no test may be called unless the Athlete has a commander listed on their Master List
- b) Grade I, II and III may have a trainer school the horse for no more than 30 minutes per day
- c) a groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long rein only
- d) lunging by someone other than the nominated Athlete is permitted. Any work-in hand by a trainer for a Grade I, II or III horse will count as part of their 30 minutes training time during that day.
- e) work in-hand by someone other than the nominated Athlete is not permitted
- f) the Freestyle is limited to combinations that have achieved at least 60% average in the Team (Grand Prix) and Individual(Special) tests (or Novice or Intermediate where applicable) where the FEI tests are being used
- g) the Freestyle is limited to combinations that have achieved at least 60% average in the Level 3 and 4 EA tests of the respective grade, where the national tests are being used.

9.13 Withdrawals

- a) no competitor shall withdraw from a competition within eight hours of its commencement without the permission of the OC
- b) a written statement giving reasons for any withdrawal must be handed to the Secretary of the Event prior to the commencement of the competition
- c) penalty for non-compliance is a maximum fine of AU\$200
- d) horses withdrawn may be subject to a veterinary inspection

9.14 Other requirements

- a) competitors are required to have performance qualifications as prescribed by the EAPDC.
- b) in the event of entries exceeding 30 combinations, the OC has the right to determine a method of acceptance.

9.15 Teams

Team entries must be made by state branches before the Team entry closing date as per the event schedule

9.15.1 State teams' competitions

- a) a team must consist of three different Athletes on three different horses that are residents and members of that state
- b) the team must be made up of at least one horse and Athlete combination from Grades I, II or III.
- c) a maximum of two combinations from any Grade are permitted in a team
- d) declaration of the team must be made in writing to the OC by the relevant Chefs d'Equipe by 5.00 pm the day before the start of the event
- e) the Para Grand Prix B test will be the highest test at the relevant level
- f) a horse may only compete in one team
- g) only one team per state permitted
- h) in the case of accident or illness, a nominated individual Athlete and/or horse, which has been declared as a starter, may be substituted for one of the team member Athletes and/or horses up to one hour before the start of the relevant competition:
 - if the withdrawal is caused by the illness of the Athlete they may take no further part on any horse in the event
 - if the withdrawal is based on veterinary advice the horse may take no further part in the event, but the nominated Athlete is permitted to fulfil other riding engagements on other horses
- i) the Athlete and/or horse that has had to withdraw, may not start as an individual entry from the time of withdrawal for the remainder of the event
- j) the winning team is the one having the highest total score, the second is the one with the next highest total score, and so on
- k) in case of equality of marks, the winning team is the one where the lowest level competitor has the best result
- l) where there are insufficient entries to enable a state team to be entered the smaller states may combine to enter a mixed state team.

9.16 Officials

The following applies to the different officials required for an Australian Para Dressage Championship.

9.17 Chefs d'Equipe

- a) a state which is represented by two or more competitors at an Australian Championship must appoint a Chef d'Equipe
- b) the Chef d'Equipe is responsible for all the competitors and horses entered for that state
- c) protests may only be lodged by the relevant Chef d'Equipe.

9.18 Chief Steward

The Chief Steward is responsible for stewarding and the organisation of the stewarding team during the entire event in co-operation with the OC. The Chief Steward will work closely with the Organising Committee and the Technical Delegate.

- a) a National Chief Steward must be appointed
- b) a National Chief Steward must be selected from the current FEI Accredited list or EA National Stewards list.

9.19 Organising Committee report

A written report must be submitted by the OC to the first meeting of the EAPDC after the conclusion of the Championships.

9.20 Horse inspections and swabbing

In relation to horse inspections and swabbing the following applies:

- a) all horse inspections will be conducted in accordance with Article 1011 of the Veterinary Regulations and Annex 1 of the FEI Dressage Rule Book
- b) random swabbing must be conducted in accordance with the EA National Medication Control Policy
- c) three swabs, at least, must be taken at national events.

9.21 Determining of placings

The final placings of the Australian Para Dressage Championships are determined by the following:

- a) championships are to be decided on points system
- b) all competing horses will be ranked on the combined results of tests at each level
- c) the first placed horse will receive 30 points, second will receive 29 points, third will receive 28 points and so on to the last placed horse
- d) where there are equal places, the Champion will be the horse with the highest aggregate percentage at that level
 - 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
- e) the Australian Grand Prix Champion is the highest placed Australian combination that achieves the best two scores in either:
 - the Team and Freestyle tests, (Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle (as defined from 1 January 2023)
 - the Team and Individual tests, (Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Special (as defined from 1 January 2023).

9.22 Ground facilities

Apart from the competition arenas, a full size arena of a similar surface to the competition arena shall be available for warming-up purposes. Stabling for visiting horses must be provided not too far from the competition grounds.

9.23 State Dressage Championships

SDAs are to conduct their state championships using the same rules as for the Australian Championships detailed previously in this section, with the following exceptions:

- a) no qualifying percentage is required
- b) at least 2 accredited para dressage judges are required to judge each competition
- c) a minimum of 1 interstate accredited judge must be on the Ground Jury
- d) the schedule is to be approved by the EAPDC
- e) a Chief Steward must be appointed from the current FEI accredited or National Stewards list.

9.24 FEI-sanctioned events

Please refer to the FEI Para Dressage Rules.

9.25 Australian competitors overseas

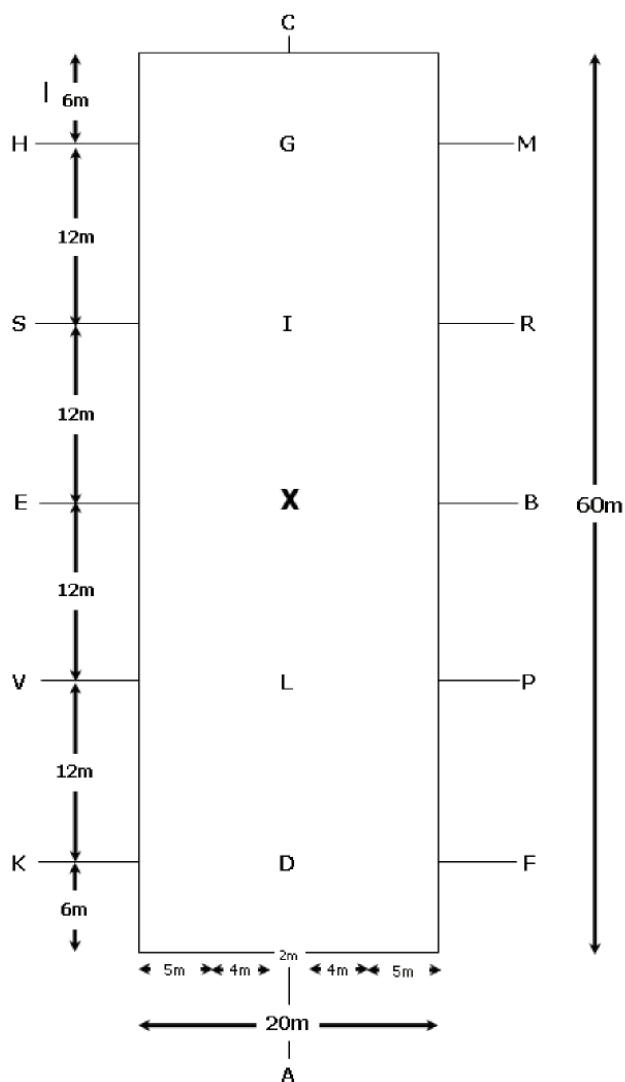
Australians competing overseas must be aware of the requirements, including the need for a competition licence. The EA office is the first point of contact.

ANNEX A

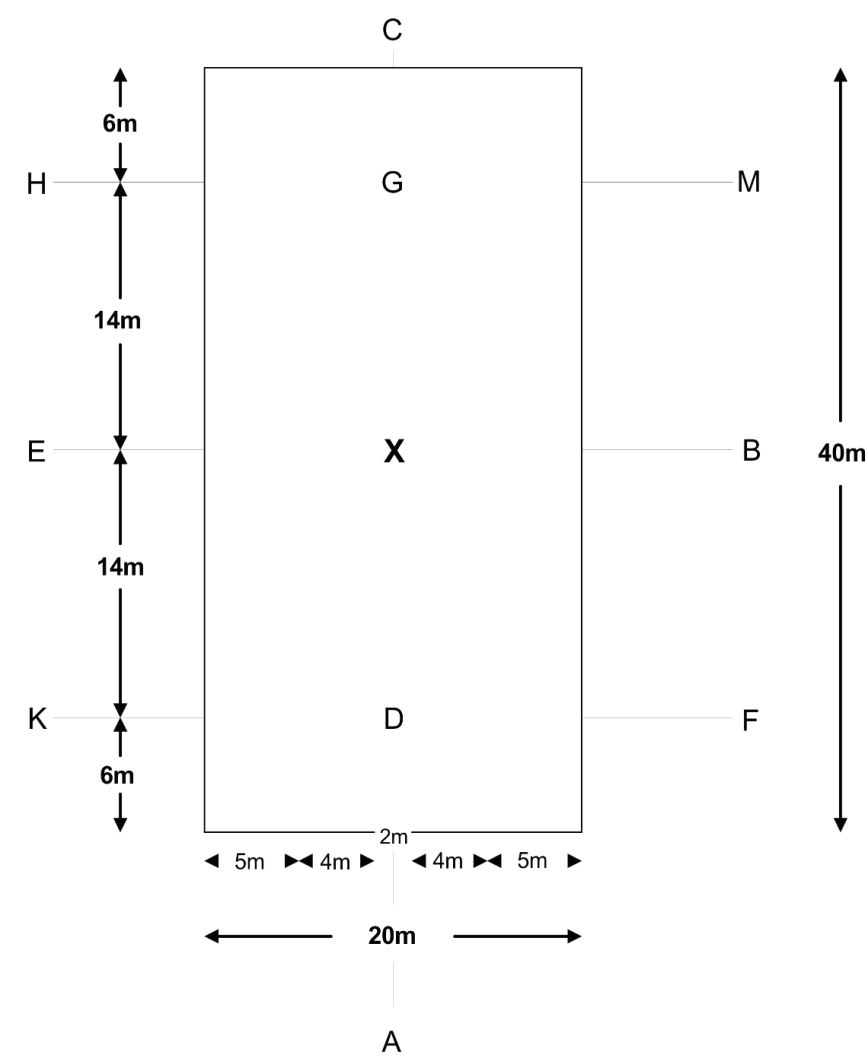
Dressage arenas and Diagrams of the geometry of riding movements

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.

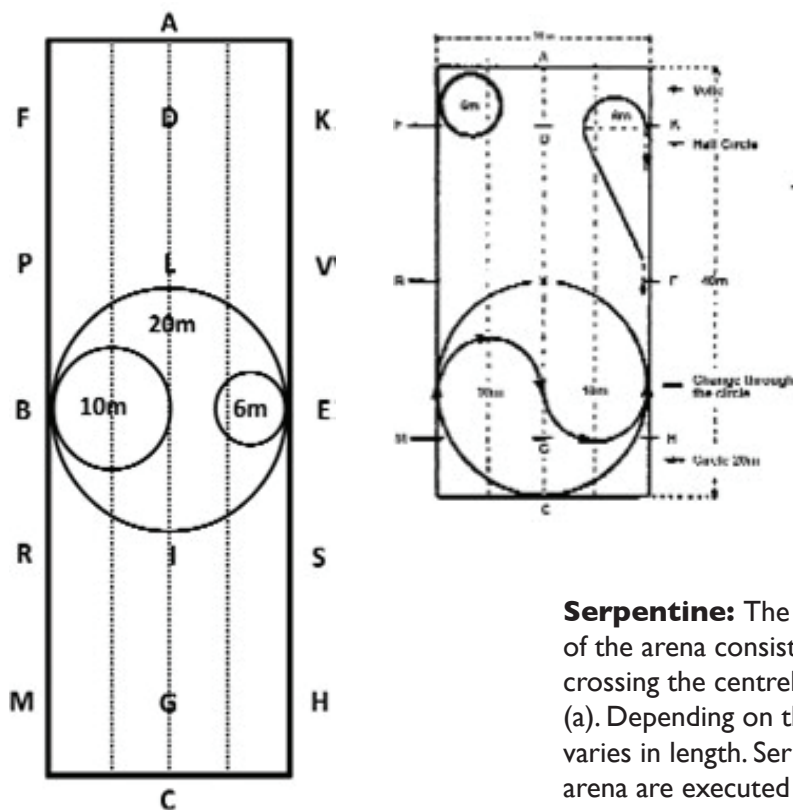
A 60 m x 20 m dressage arena



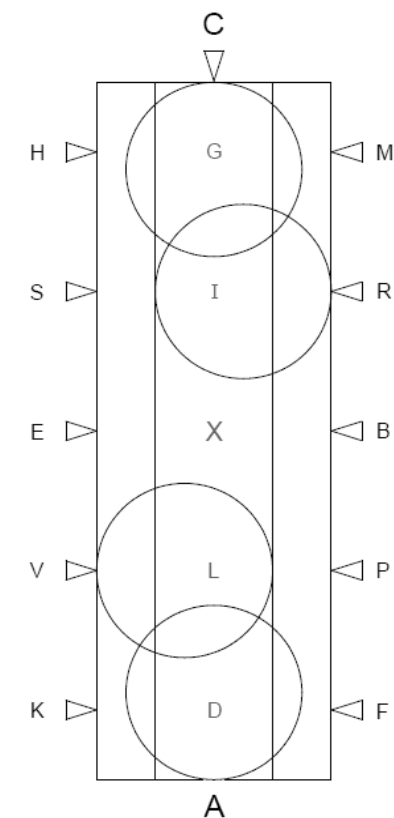
A 40 m x 20 m dressage arena



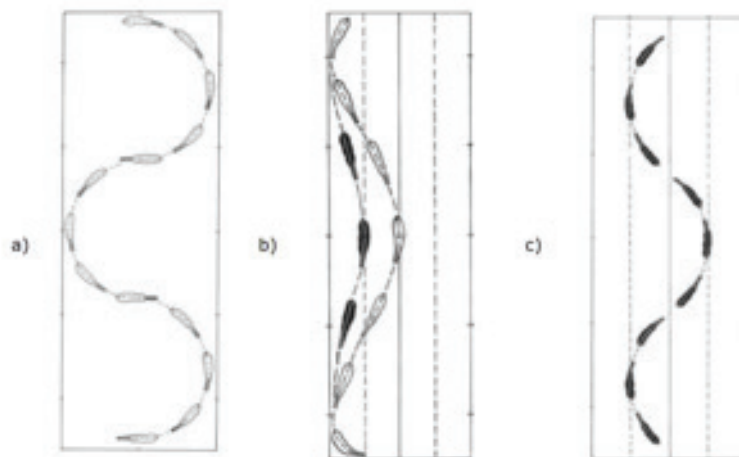
Geometry - the different size circles



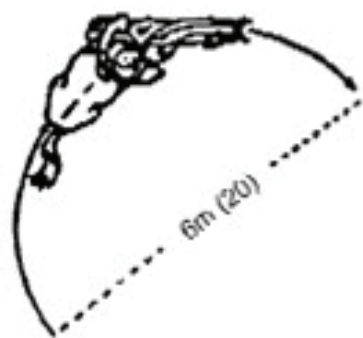
Serpentine: The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centreline, the Horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length. Serpentine with one (1) loop on the long side of the arena are executed with five (5) metres or ten (10) metres distance from the track (b). Serpentine around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c)



15 m circles



Turning Corner



Volte

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

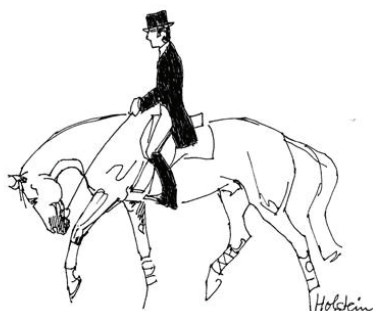
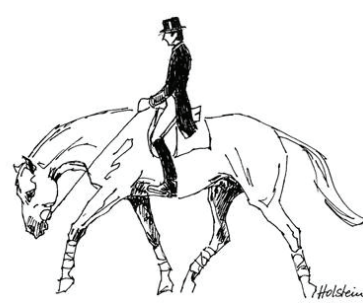


Diagram 2
Low, deep and round



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.

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"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Note: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
28–30	29:60	<p>Some precautions to reduce heat load on horses will be necessary such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use shaded areas for competition and warm up areas • avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • reduction in overall effort (shorter distance, less jumping efforts, etc) • competition PA announcements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. NOTE: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
30–33	30:65	<p>Additional precautions to those above to limit overheating of horses will be necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions should be held in cooler parts of the day (between 7 am – 11 am and/or after 4 pm). • Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • Competition PA announcements. • CCI ** and CCI *** Eventing horses require AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR CCI**/** EVENTING HORSES 4. NOTE: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
>33	32:60	<p>These environmental conditions are very high risk and are probably not compatible with safe competition.</p> <p>Further veterinary consultation/advice will be re-quired before continuing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions or the 'high exertion phase' of the event must be held during cooler parts of the day (between 7 am – 11.00 am and/or after 4 pm). • Higher level competitions should be run in the coolest part of the day. • Schedule the most demanding competition/competition phases when it is cooler. • The lower level competitions generally make lower demands on horses. • Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • Competition PA announcements – frequently re-peated. (See below) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. <p>AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR ALL HORSES</p> <p>Additional requirements for eventing competitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A shaded area with misting fans 5. A veterinarian to monitor horses.

C.2 Competition PA heat risk announcements

- a) 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
- b) 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
- c) encouraging abbreviated warm-ups to lighten the load on the horses' cooling systems
- d) explanations of aggressive cooling until the horse's temperature returns to 38°C
- e) encouraging the use of ice and a shaded area with misting fans, to cool horses after exercise
- f) encouraging hydration of every horse with cool clean water, salt and electrolytes
- g) 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 W BGT 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 (anhydrosis), 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 W BGT 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 (BVSc)
- Dr John Kohnke (BVSc)
- Dr Warwick Vale (BSc BVMS (Hons II)) and
- Dr Margot Seneque (BVSc, 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, technical faults, penalties and deductions

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.

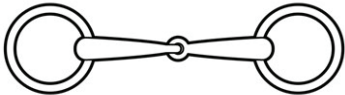
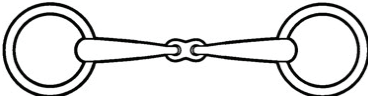

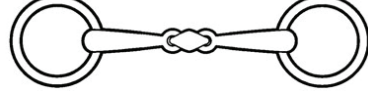
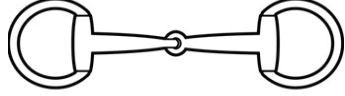
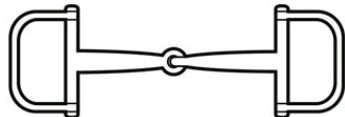
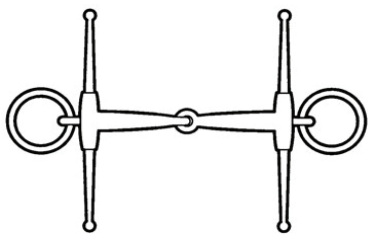
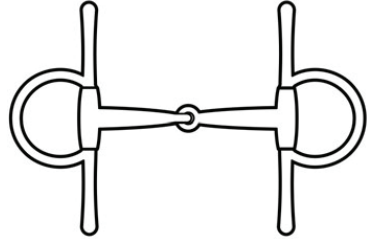
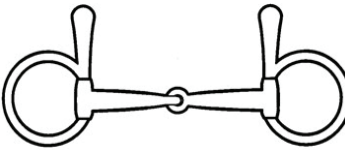
Will entail elimination	
1.3	Excessive use of whip or spur, bit or hands.
1.3.2	Unable to fulfil the requirements of the level and the test and/or shows abusive riding. No appeal against this decision
1.4	Fresh blood in the test – no appeal
1.4.1 & 3.25	Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not is strictly forbidden at an event
1.5	Sensory Hairs - Please refer to the current EA General Regulations: Article 141 - Protection of Horses
4.12	Resistance for 60 seconds or more
4.12	Resistance that is a safety issue/dangerous to horse and/or Athlete, can be less than 60 seconds
4.12	Leaving the arena wilfully with all 4 feet during a test between beginning and end of a test. If not wilfully then at the discretion of the C judge
4.13	Unauthorised assistance
4.13	Horses other than grade I, II and III or vision impaired, may not be attached to a lead line in or around the competition arena – this is considered outside assistance for all other Athletes
4.14.2	Riding in or entering competition arena without permission
4.20	Third error of course
4.22	Marked lameness – no appeal
3.7	Not entering the arena after a further 60 seconds (total 120 seconds) after the bell has rung (first penalty of – 0.5% for not entering after 60 sec)
4.10	Leaving the arena unmounted
4.10	Fall of horse and/or Athlete between entry at A and the final salute
5.2	Riding out of order in the draw without the OC or C Judge approval
3.3	Failure to have a gear check
3.2	Riding with non permitted equipment or not wearing required equipment
5.2	Safety helmet must be worn and have harness secured.
3.14.1o)	Wearing a bitless bridle
3.2	False tails with metal in them
3.2.2	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
3.2.2	Decoration on the horse including mane/tail with items such as ribbons, flowers, glitter
3.25	Permitted in warm-up and exercise area but NOT into competition area, saddle covers, headphones or similar devices
3.21	Lunging with more than one lunge rein, lunging with Athlete in the saddle, long reining. Lunging outside of designated area, lunging with lunge rein attached to the curb bit
3.13.2	Wearing lock-in stirrups, stirrup tie downs unless stated on the Master List
3.15	Not wearing a noseband
3.15	Wearing more than one noseband
3.9	Unsafe footwear is worn
3.11	Wearing spurs that point inwards, tip points upwards or incorrect spurs. (swan neck spurs ok) permitted)
3.11	Pony Athletes wearing spurs that are longer than 4 cm
3.12	Carrying a whip that exceeds the required length – 1 m for ponies or 1.2 m for horses
3.15	Wearing non approved noseband –
3.16	Wrapping of the bit with any foreign material other than rubber or latex that does not change?? the shape or function of the bit
3.16	Wearing Incorrect sizes or types of bits
3.18.1	Not wearing cavesson noseband with double bridle (no lower strap to be worn)
6.1	Failure to enter arena after 120 sec freestyle
May entail elimination	
1.1	Breach of rules as outlined in Rule 1.1
4.14.3	Non-compliance with lunging in a designated area
4.17	Calling test – commander can read 2 times only

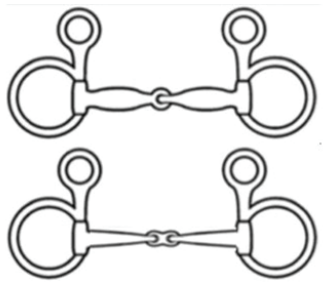
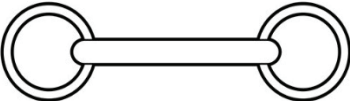
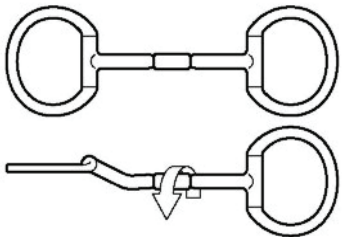

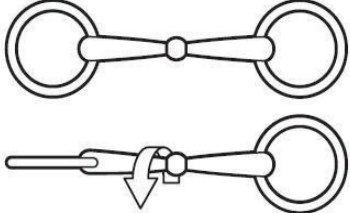
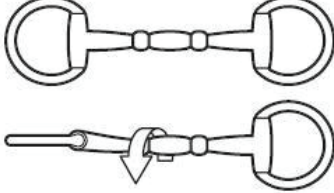
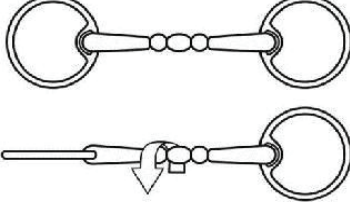
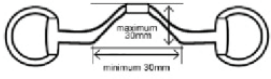
Technical Faults and Penalties		
Rule	Points deducted	
4.9	0.5% per judge	Exceeding 60 seconds to enter the arena
4.9	0.5% per judge	Failure to salute at the entry halt or final halt
4.9	0.5% per judge	Entering the arena before the bell is sounded
4.20	0.5% per judge	1st error of course
4.20	1.0% per judge	2nd error of course
5.6.5	0.5% per judge	Enters competition area not wearing correct identification numbers
3.7	0.5% per judge	Incorrect dress where a penalty is provided for
3.13.1	0.5% per judge	Saddle or bridle not black or brown
3.13.2	0.5% per judge	Stirrups not black, silver, gold or same colour as Athlete's boots
4.2.1	0.5% per judge	Fleece or other visible padding on the upper side of bridle
4.2.1	0.5% per judge	Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages in the space around the arena
4.2.1	0.5% per judge	Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages if worn in the arena
6.1	0.5% per judge	Not giving the signal for the music to start within 60 seconds of the bell
6.1	0.5% per judge	Entering the arena after 30 seconds of music
4.2.1	0.5% per judge	If the Athlete enters the arena clearly late (after 60 seconds)
4.2.1	0.5% per judge	If the test is longer or shorter than stipulated
Deduction from Marks in Movements		
• Holding reins in one hand – 4.19		
• Use of Voice – 2.18.1		
• Tongue – whenever seen		

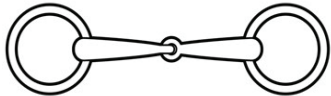
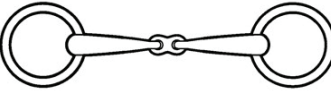
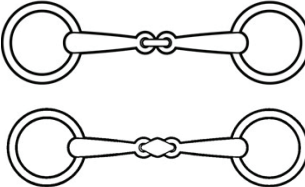

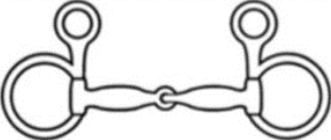
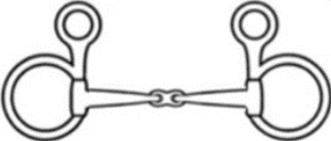
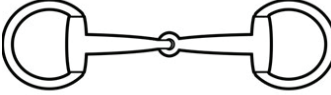
ANNEX F

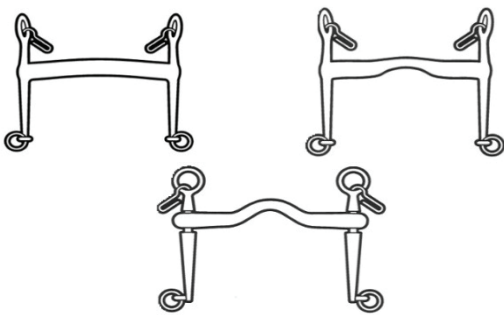
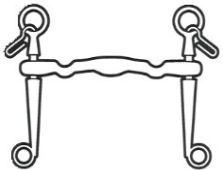
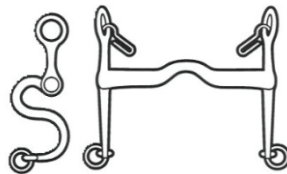
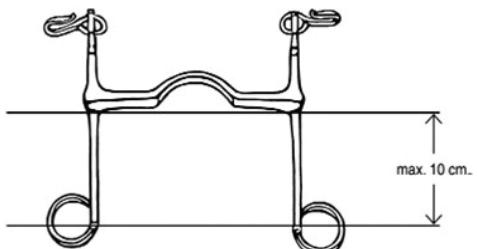
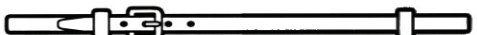




Permitted bits and nosebands

Permitted bits

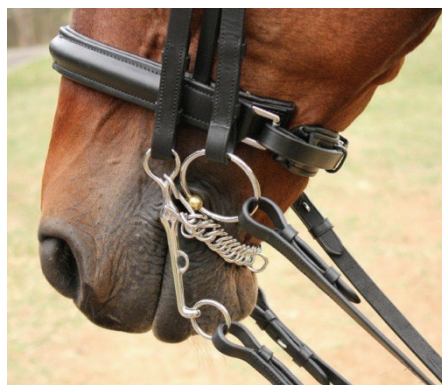
Snaffle	
1. Loose ring snaffle	
2. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. Egg butt sides also permitted	
3. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. Egg butt sides also permitted	
4. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece must be rounded. 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	

10. Hanging cheek snaffle(single or double joint only)	
11. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with egg butt rings	
12. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece	
13. Snaffle with rotating middle piece	
14. Rotary bits single jointed	
15. Rotary bits double jointed	
16. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and lopped rings	
Measurement for deviation to allow tongue relief in snaffle with rotating mouthpiece	

Double bridles bits - bridoons	
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, Baucher (single and double joint only)	 
22. Egg-butt bridoon bit	

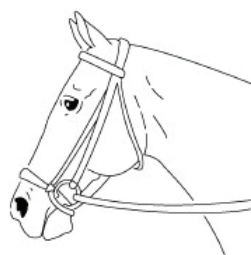
Curbs (curb chain hooks may be fixed)	
<p>23. Half-moon curb bit (top left) Half-moon curb bit with straight cheeks and port (top right and bottom) Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth). A curb bit with rotating lever arm also permitted (bottom)</p>	
24. Variation of the two sets of bits 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)

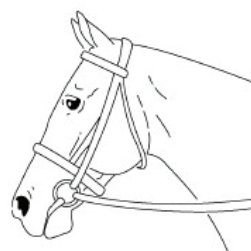


Permitted nosebands

1. Dropped noseband



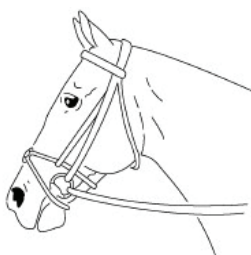
2. Cavesson noseband

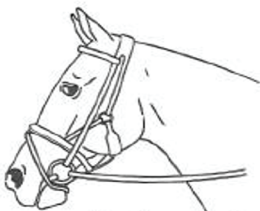

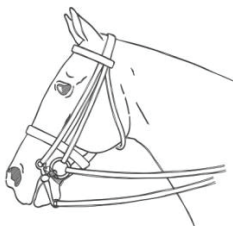


3. Flash noseband (Hanoverian)



4. Crossed noseband (Grackle or Mexican)



<p>5. Combined noseband – no throat lash. When 5 is used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband is not permitted</p>	 <p>5. Combined noseband – no throat lash</p>
<p>6. Micklem bridle</p>	 <p>6. Micklem bridle</p>
<p>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</p>	

ANNEX G

Payment for Officials

Guidelines for reimbursement - Out-of-pocket expenses for Officials

It is required that judges, accredited FEI stewards and EA stewards will receive an honorarium as reimbursement of expenses as follows. However, the official and OC may negotiate a mutually suitable arrangement at time of invitation.

Official	Per Hour	Maximum per day	Mileage per km	Maximum Mileage
Judges	\$20		75c	\$350
Stewards	\$20	\$150	75c	\$350
TD/Chief Steward		\$150	75c	\$350

- a) mileage - where longer distances are involved this can be negotiated at time of invitation
- b) for regional events where airfares and accommodation are provided, the honorarium may be negotiated between the judge/accredited FEI or EA Steward and the OC
- c) any negotiation must take place at the time of the invitation
- d) when an Athlete, who is also an accredited judge, has entered to compete at an event and subsequently is asked to judge at the same event, the usual practice shall be that the Athlete/judge is paid the judging honorarium only, but not the travel money

Payment to Judge Educators, Steward Educators and/or Mentors

The following fees are payable by the SDA:

	Seminar – 1 day	Marking F to A & YH Theory Exams – per candidate	Marking F to A Practical Exams	Shadow Judging	Official Sit-In	Official Sit-In (as per 12.17.h)	Protocol Session per hr/max	Mileage per km/max mileage
JE	\$300	\$30	\$75	\$30	\$30		68c/\$300	75c/\$350
Mentor				\$30	\$30		68c/\$300	75c/\$350
Judges						\$20/\$300		75c/\$350

- g) seminar – as above or if longer than 2 days then the fee to be negotiated for the conduct of judges/stewards seminars
- h) practical exam – as above - if the OC is unable to provide the results on a spread sheet, there will be a cost involved to cover the additional work done by the JE at \$50 per hour per candidate – maximum \$150 per candidate
- i) judge protocol session – it is recommended that judges are reimbursed a maximum of \$40/30 minute protocol session plus mileage at the current recommended rate for judges, or by prior negotiation.

ANNEX H: Adaptive equipment (compensating aids) summary

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT (Compensating Aids) FOR PARA DRESSAGE																
Profile-Specific Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids)																
Profile	Grade	Raised pommel or cantle	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Looped or ladder reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No stirrups	Velcro strap mid-thigh	Use of sign language	Callers	Commander
1-6	I/II	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•			As determined through the Classification process and supporting medical documentation
7	I	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•			
8	III		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•			
9	II	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•			
10a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•			
11a/b	II/III		•	•	•					•	•	•	•			
12a/b	I/II		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•			
13	I	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•			
14	III		•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•			
15	IV		•				•	•		•	•					
16	V							•	•							
17a	III		•		•					•	•	•	•			
17b	IV		•		•					•	•	•	•			
18a	III		•		•					•	•	•	•			
18b	IV		•		•					•		•	•			
19a	IV		•							•		•	•			
19b	V		•							•			•			
20	V				•											
21	IV					•	•		•							
22	V						•		•							
23	V															
24	V						•	•								
25	IV				•		•									
26a	IV				•		•			•						
26b	V				•		•									
27	III		•	•				•				•				
28	IV		•		•											
31a/b/32	II/III		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•(31)			
36/37a	IV/V														•	
38	N/A													•		
39	N/A															
On Master List		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes

Standard Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids)

*Not to be listed on the FEI Classification Master List Salute with head only
 Sitting or rising trot
 Gloves
 Spurs
 Saddle-any type
 Soft hand hold
 Deep saddle
 Elastic bands on stirrups
 Enclosed stirrups
 Magnetic stirrups
 1 whip
 Breast plate and/or neck strap
 Joined rein on double bridle
 Elastic inserts in reins
 Safety vest (including inflatable)
 Knotted Reins/Rein Stops

Non-Standard Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids)

These are aids or equipment not described in the table on the left. The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid approved by the FEI Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids) Panel. See application form on FEI website.

*Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List once approved.