



---

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

# Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee UPDATE

Meeting held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent EADC & SDA meeting

## MEETING DISCUSSION

### Update on EA

The meeting welcomed Mark Bradley, EA Chair to speak at the first session. Prue Spurrett, EA Dressage Chair personally introduced each attendee to Mark. Following an explanation on the composition of the new Board, Mark acknowledged the mix of gender and horse/non-horse experience would enable discussion to begin on topics raised out of the VA. The relevance of the 2020-25 EA Strategic Plan will be one of the first tasks undertaken. The new Board is keen to continue consultation with all stakeholders to determine the structure of the sport.

### 2021 Dressage Event Update

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 issues and uncertainty on travel, many OC had decided to not run CDI in 2021. Events like the 2021 Sydney Championships will be a CDN. Sourcing international officials is one of many obstacles faced in meeting FEI criteria for a CDI event, with most officials not in a position to be able to meet extended quarantine requirements. If MER need to be met, every feasible opportunity will be investigated.

The Australian Championships will be held in Sydney (SIEC) 14 – 17 October 2021.

### Social Media

Whilst recognised there were many state and regional pages servicing Club members, it was resolved to look further at developing a EA Dressage Facebook page which would contain both EA National, State and High-Performance content.

The main benefit of this page would be to provide one central control hub to promote Dressage. Comments would be turned off initially.

### National Sports Committee – Chairs Meeting

A meeting of the Discipline and Coach Chairs has been occurring regularly through 2020 and had provided a useful forum to bring all disciplines and coaching together on a wide range of topics. Discussed at the December meeting:

- Helmet Tagging – currently only mandatory in eventing, a national program will be rolled out in 2021. Noted QLD has already commenced this initiative.
- Stallion Safe Policy – Jumping had requested extending equipment to a breastplate for displaying stallion discs. Dressage will remain with either bridle or saddlecloth as the options available.
- Health & Safety – a synopsis will be held in early 2021, and a delegate representing Dressage will attend.

### **Pony Dressage**

Pamela Bice was invited by the EADC to attend and outline the Size Matters Working Group that had been set up to address correct weight ratio's between ponies and the athletes riding them. This Horse Welfare topic is to be approached by way of Education and Awareness with an outcome to address guidelines for both Coaches and Judges.

Pamela will be leading the working group who comprises of EA staff, officials, and coaches who will research international best practises and look at other organisations like RDA and British Horse Society for models to reference.

### **Virtual Dressage Judging**

COVID-19 has led to a rise in the way EA uses different approaches for everything from meetings to interacting with horses.

For Dressage, many successful events were undertaken by the States in 2020. Using the Nominate scoring system – Scoreboard, Judges were happy to have a positive opportunity to interact with athletes, and riders were happy to have a platform to continue to improve their test riding. Demand continues for this, particularly regional members, in 2021.

EADC have told EADJC that they would support the use of a one-off assessment should this virtual platform find its way into assessment.

### **C-Level Judges Proposal**

Testing has been underway on the “collapsing” of the B/C levels. This has been proposed to help alleviate the extensive timeframe (shortening by potentially 12 months) it currently takes Judges to upgrade through these levels. With the Advanced 5.3 and PSG test requirements similar, this acknowledgment will help encourage more Judges on the pathway.

### **Sport Rules**

As recommended by EADC and ratified by the Administrators, KordaMentha in 2020, each rule change for January 2021 listed on the Summary on the Web page was further critiqued by the meeting. Following robust discussion, some further final amendments were made. The final changes will be updated to the existing summary and added to the Rules for 1 January 2021 as well as being incorporated into the national Judges seminar program resources.

### **Reports**

Annual reports for 2020 from the Dressage Steward General, EADJC, Dressage Athletes Representative and State Dressage Chairs were tabled.

The concerns were consistent as the impacts of COVID-19 have been navigated this past year. The way Organisers and Officials were forming a coordinated approach to adhere to horse welfare and offer some level of test rides to members showed an eagerness to keep a *business as close to usual as possible* theme.