



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held: 23 April 2022

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

MEETING DISCUSSION

Events/Calendar

- Confirmation that EOI's for Major events will be called at the beginning of May.
- 2023 Australian Amateur Owner Rider Championships have already been awarded – Dec 2023
- Request States to advise State Championship dates
- 2023 Calendar to be finalised once applications have closed and events appointed.

Size Matters Working Group Update

- Update on launch of guide, Horse Capacity to Size of Athlete - now located on the [EA website](#)

Judges

- Discussions held around handling judging discrepancies in states, ensuring the process is encouraging and judges not being penalised. Processes that could be implemented nationally, so it becomes the norm, for judges to feel comfortable and confident with the process being part of ongoing education, with nobody being right or wrong, but sharing reasons why and acknowledging all judges are human and everybody makes mistakes. To be looked at by EADOC
- Suggested sharing of ideas with the State Judges Subcommittees in the same manner as this meeting with the SDA chairs. Idea to be taken to EADOC.

Championship Prizes

- Discussion held regarding the difficulties of smaller States meeting the requirements of prize money and sourcing prizes can be difficult. Sponsorship is becoming increasingly difficult due to cost and being able to provide value to sponsors.

Acknowledged the need for improved education of athletes/officials on sponsorship and how it is defined in the program.

- Engaging the athletes to thank the sponsors and show appreciation. Have riders involved in the process as much as possible to assist in maintaining sponsors.
- Athletes to promote sponsors where possible, improve the understanding of athletes on costs, athletes unaware of costs associated with officials.
- Seek out potential riders/owners that can support events. In most case owners/past owners are only too happy to assist and gain recognition.
- Education of athletes and using athlete connections to assist committees in the area of sponsorship could assist with improving the issue.

Protocol Days

Discussion around Protocol Guidelines - state judges should not officiate the same rider within 2 weeks of giving a protocol day.

Difficult for regional areas. Look at holding Protocol Day after the competition, being more beneficial for the rider.

Judge/Coach who runs a coaching clinic, same rules need to apply.

Training Tests v Protocol Tests – what is the difference. One being an unofficial competition and the other feedback being provided. Need to look at glossary terms for Testing Day and Protocol Day and what is a Nationally accepted standard.

Officials Top Insurance

Top Insurance was clarified as per table below:

	Club holds EA Club Insurance	Club DOES NOT hold EA Club Insurance
EA Member: Non-Income Earning / Reimbursement of Expenses Only	Cover provided through EA Club and Membership	Cover provided through EA Membership
Income Earning Activity (i.e. payment above reimbursement)	Cover provided by EA Club Insurance	EA Officials Top Up Required

Benefit of affiliated clubs is using the EA Dressage Rules and accessing club insurance.

Young Horse Competition Age Groups

There is a conflict in the rules re: the age of horses/ponies and Australian Young Horse.

Discussion took place regarding the various options being 1st August regardless of where they are born (as it has been happening), 1 January if born in the Northern hemisphere or natural birthdate. If there were any implications when competing internationally, FEI uses both dates, so the horse will remain in its age group.

Agreement by the group for the 1st August to be used and EADC review the rules accordingly for 2023.

Qualification for CDIs & CDN's at CDI events in Australia

Discussion regarding increasing qualifications scores given the standard is improving all the time.

EADC had prepared some percentile analysis based on 2019 scores (last full year of competition) which was presented, providing an idea of how athletes are performing across Australia.

With a score increase, look at decreasing the requirement of 2 qualification scores from 2 to 1.

EADC will take on board discussions, feedback as presented and findings from the percentile analysis and review qualifications scores for 2023.

Waiver of qualification scores for CDI classes

Qualification scores and exemptions. These were introduced to improve the standard, and as a result, the standard has improved significantly. The intent of the exemption rule is to ensure that our very best riders with new horses have the opportunity to obtain MERs for WEG and Olympic qualification. As a National Sport Committee, the role sits with the EADC to determine each application on its merit. In each case rules are balanced against circumstances, ensuring consistency and fairness to all riders.

Rule to be clarified in the Rulebook for 1 July 2022.

Performance Gold Medals

Discussions around the principle of a percentile award, meaning the score will fluctuate yearly providing the ability to maintain a standard against the standard in the country.

It would be awarded purely based on results and riders would not need to self-nominate.

Further investigations required, however agreed to in principle.

Rule amendments for 1 July

Reviewed and discussed.

Reports Tabled

Dressage Chief Steward

EADOC

State Reports

Next EADC/SDA Meeting – Saturday 8 October 2022