



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held: 23 November 2021

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

MEETING DISCUSSION

Events/Calendar

FEI Calendar Applications/CDI's/WEG Qualifications

Clarification from the FEI that given travel restrictions are still in place in certain regions such as Australia and New Zealand, the Board agreed to permit the FEI Dressage and Vaulting Committees to grant exemptions related to the appointment of Officials for qualifier competitions, and to allow on-line supervision of competitions where necessary. These exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Pacific League

Awaiting advice from the FEI in response to requesting Australia be able to able to nominate best performed Australian combination regardless of their location, given Australia is not in a position to host a Pacific League Final due to the COVID impact all round on timeline.

State Squads

Discussions around States Squads moving to a nomination process, whereas in the past it has been a selection process - past squads had more diversity and the reward/acknowledgement of being selected rather than just nominating. Squads need to ensure they are offering diversity, value, reward, and benefits of being a member. Currently some riders are opting not to become squad members. There was agreement that this would be worth pursuing with States.

Exemptions & Eligibility Qualifications for FEI Tests – Rule 4.8.3.2

Concern over the short time frame of many submissions coming to the C'tee and limited time for the EADC to consider the applications. Suggested – applications be received no later than **3 weeks** prior to the combination wanting to compete to give the EADC time for full deliberation.

Also raised the need to review the qualification requirements to ensure the standard of Dressage is maintained.

Committee in agreement to review the qualification scores, recommendation then provided to States for inclusion in the 2022 rules as of 1 July 2022.

Number of EA tests to be ridden per day

As per the rules, riders can enter 3 tests per day. This raises concern from a horse welfare perspective and given FEI only allow 2 tests per day, this may need reviewing.

Consideration that if this was introduced, clubs may elect to run events without freestyle and YH, taking out classes that don't have large entries – also review the time periods between tests.

Further discussion will be given to the number of tests per day and time frame between tests for inclusion in Rules as of 1 July 2022.

Helmet Tagging

Helmet Tagging in Dressage - roll out introductory phase to commence in first half of 2022, to become mandatory as of 1 July 2022

Proposed rule:

5.2 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 122.2 prescribe the current standards. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure they are using a current standard safety helmet.

- 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) interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark
g) black or may be same colour as coat, a reflective strip (not to entire helmet) permitted



BSI Kitemarked



SAI Global marked



SEI marked

(h) All helmets are required to be tagged with a current visible EA 'Helmet Tag' (effective 1 July 2022) indicating they meet the current approved safety standards. Failure to have helmet appropriately tagged may entail a recorded warning.

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

~~5.2.21~~ Any type of camera **may not be attached to a helmet or anywhere on the rider, saddlery or horse.**

Note: Recorded warnings are only currently used in Eventing, however the EADC are in agreement for 'lesser' infringements a 'recorded warning' would better suited than a YWC or elimination.

Further discussions to take place across all disciplines at the NSC (National Sport Committee) meeting in December.

Sensory Hair Ruling

Committee in full support of the ruling, however, submission to Board for an amnesty period until 1 July 2022 to enable the message to get out to members that sensory hair cannot be trimmed.

Subsequent approval advised by EA Board. Likewise pending FEI guidelines on implementation. Time frame will allow members, officials, and volunteers to become more familiar with the application of the ruling.

Ensure widespread publicity once full details are known and inclusion in rule book as of 1 July 2021.

Performance Gold Medals

Discussion regarding medals only being presented if an application is received. It was also suggested that given the number that would qualify for the medal, the qualification criteria also needs reviewing, ensuring the purpose of the medal is meeting the objective/standard of exceptional performance. Acknowledging a set standard for athletes and as per the FEI qualification scores for exemptions there is a need to ensure we are setting criteria that reflects where we are aiming the standard of Dressage in Australia.

Performance gold medal qualification scores & criteria to be reviewed. State Selectors be responsible for nominating athlete/horse combinations for the medal.

Horse ID number – Size/Location Recommendations

Following discussions held at the EADC/SDA meeting about Horse ID Numbers being difficult to view. Recommended guidelines suggested with them being included in the Dressage Rule book as of 1 July 2022.

Recommended Guidelines for Horse Identification Numbers:

- Must be clearly visible to the judge
- Minimum 5cm in height
- Must be clearly displayed on bridle or saddle cloth on each side of the horse

EA NDC Appointment & Procedure Policy - EADC Appointments

EOI's have now closed for EADC positions. A Committee Panel will be formed among the SDA Chairs to make recommendations to the EA Board for appointment.

One nomination was received for the EA Athlete Representative. The EADC have endorsed this nomination and made recommendation to the EA for appointment - to be announced in due course.

Prue Spurrett will be completing her term on the EADC after 6 years, Prue extended her thanks to the committee for their support and great teamwork in all the issues and queries that come before the C'tee. Maree Tomkinson, EA Dressage Athlete Representative, was also thanked for her term on C'tee and the C'tee expressed Best Wishes for Maree's future journey overseas.

Next EA Dressage Committee Meeting – Tuesday 11 January 2022