

**Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Mid-year Rule Review**  
**(For implementation 1 January 2022 – EA BOARD APPROVED)**  
**(Updated 27 October 2021)**

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
3.21.1	Number/ Level of judges required for Official Competitive competitions	Modification made to facilitate a smoother, faster pathway to become an F level judge	<p><b>3.21 Number/Level of judges required for Official Competitive and Official Participation Competitions</b></p> <p><del>3.21.1 Number /Level of judges required for Official Competitive competitions</del></p> <p>The EADC strongly recommends that a minimum of 2 appropriately qualified judges officiate at every Official Competitive competition. NOTE: For Australian Dressage Championships and some other qualifications, competitors must submit 3 scores from competitions with at least 2 judges officiating.</p> <p>For levels Advanced and below, if the minimum recommended 2 judges cannot be procured it is permitted that:</p> <p>a) one A level judge may judge up to Advanced level  b) one B level judge may judge up to Medium level  c) one C level judge may judge up to Elementary level  d) one D level judge may judge up to Novice level  e) one E or F level judge may judge up to Prelim level  f) a G level judge may judge Official competitive Preliminary with another judge of at least F level  g) <b>one judge of F level or above may judge Participation competitions at Preliminary and Novice level</b>  h) <b>a G level judge may judge Participant Preliminary and Novice as a single judge but for Novice level Participant competitions they must judge with another judge of at least F level</b></p> <p>Prior to the event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• riders must be notified if there is only one judge officiating on a competition</li> <li>• organising committees must notify the SDA in writing when only one judge will be officiating</li> </ul> <p>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 EADC when these exemptions are granted.</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
			<p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this exception does not apply to the number of judges required for State or Australian Championships</li> <li>• judges may not judge above their accredited level</li> <li>• for details about judges for Para Equestrian (PE) events please see rule 11.10.1.</li> <li>• <del>one judge of F level or above may judge Participation competitions at Preliminary and Novice level • a G level judge may judge Participant Preliminary as a single judge but for Novice level Participant competitions they must judge with another judge of at least F level</del></li> </ul> <p>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 EADOC.</p>
12.5	Judges accreditation	As above	<p><b>12.5 Judges accreditation</b></p> <p>Accredited judges may act as a member of a Ground Jury at events or competitions in Australia.</p> <p>The National levels of judges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Grand Prix level</li> <li>• B-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Intermediate I level</li> <li>• C-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Advanced level</li> <li>• D-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Medium level</li> <li>• E-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Elementary level</li> <li>• F-Level – accredited to judge up to and including Novice level</li> <li>• G-Level – authorised to judge up to and including Official Competitive Preliminary <b>as well as Participant events as outlined in 3.21</b> – with conditions – refer to rule 3.21</li> </ul>

Updated table below 12.11 Requirements for upgrading to the next level (page 136)

**Summary table of all the prerequisites needed for a judge to upgrade to the next level**

Requirements	Upgrade to F	Upgrade to E	Upgrade to D	Upgrade to C	Upgrade to B	Upgrade to A
<b>General</b>						
Minimum age	18	20	20	20	20	20
Current EA member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level of seminar to attend	Must include the level that the candidate is upgrading to					
Minimum level of JE Examiner	A	A	A	A	FEI	FEI
Attend a Freestyle Workshop	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
<u>Must have judged min number of competitions at their current highest level and must be completed BEFORE commencing any pre regs (Except for G level where must be completed before Practical exam )</u> <del>Must have judged at least 5- competitions at their current highest level and must be completed BEFORE commencing any pre regs to upgrade</del>	<u>2</u>	5	5	5	6	6
<b>Riding Requirement</b>						
Attained at least 55% overall score on at least 2 occasions judged by accredited judge/s. Can be higher level.	N/A	N/A	Novice	Elem	Medium	Medium
<b>Shadow judging</b>						
Level of competition to be judged	Novice	Elem	Med	Adv	PSG & Int I	Inter II & GP (c)
Min number of entire competitions to be judged	3	3	4	4	3 of each	3 of each
Min number of horses in each competition	<del>4</del> N/A	10	6	6	6	3
Min number of horses to be judged overall (more is better)	24	30	24	24	36	18
Supervising JE/Mentor to be at least	D	D	C	B	A	FEI
Shadow judging evaluation form to be completed each time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
At least one Medium Tour or GP freestyle with an overall total of at least 8 horses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
<b>Sit-ins</b>						
<u>Must occur on at least 2 separate competitions with a different JE/Mentor (could be completed at the one event) Must be minimum of 2 hours</u> <del>Must occur on at least 2- separate competitions with a different JE/Mentor (could be completed at the one event)</del>	2	2	2	2	2	2
Supervising JE/Mentor to be at least	D	D	C	B	A	FEI

Sit-in evaluation form to be completed each time if it an assessed sit-in.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Writer</b>						
Take opportunities to act as a writer or time/course watcher at a higher level.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
4.8.4.2	Stallions	Aligning Dressage rules to reflect the updated EA Stallion Safe Practices Policy	<p><b>4.8.4.2 Stallions</b></p> <p>a) Stallion Safe Practices Policy can be found here - <a href="https://www.equestrian.org.au/stallion-safe-practice">https://www.equestrian.org.au/stallion-safe-practice</a> . Colts/Stallions are not permitted to be ridden by riders under 18 years of age. <b>Handlers of colts/stallions must be 18 years or older.</b></p> <p><b>4.8.5 Horse Identification numbers and Stallion ID at events</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) identification numbers shall be discreet on white background, the colour of the numbers may vary</p> <p>d) green stallion identification discs or number holders <b>as issued by EA</b> must be worn by stallions at all times at an event</p> <p>e) <b>green stallion</b> identification <b>discs or number holders</b> must be clearly displayed on both sides of the stallion’s head (attached to bridle or halter) or both sides of the saddle cloth or <b>on both sides of the breastplate:</b> as per EA <b>Stallion Safe Practices Policy.</b></p> <p>f) horse Identification numbers must be worn in addition to stallion discs, either as the <b>EA-issued</b> green bridle identification number holder or the green <b>EA-issued</b> stallion disc identification plus horse ID number</p> <p>Failure to correctly wear Horse Identification Numbers will incur the following:</p> <p>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</p> <p>h) if the horse does enter in the competition arena not wearing correct identification numbers, -2 points per judge is deducted</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
4.10	<b>Downgrading of horses/ponies</b>	Sometimes horses (unfortunately) change hands sooner than in a two year period. There is no real purpose to this rule, as it does not affect horse welfare.	<p><b>4.10 Downgrading of horses/ponies</b>  Applications for downgrading of horses/ponies for any category of competition must be directed to the relevant SDA and the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) applications for downgrading must be made in writing with supporting documentation</li> <li>b) an application to downgrade a horse/pony must be made or endorsed by the registered owner or lessee</li> <li>c) each request will be considered separately and, on its merit</li> <li>d) the decision to downgrade and to what level is entirely at the discretion of the SDA</li> <li>e) downgrading may occur only once in the duration of a rider's partnership with the horse/pony</li> <li>f) downgrading may occur more than once in a horse/pony's lifetime <del>but must not occur more than once in a 2-year period</del></li> <li>g) will only apply to those graded at least Elementary level and above</li> <li>h) must not exceed a maximum of three levels (e.g. Advanced to Novice refer to rule 4.8.2 for definition of levels)</li> <li>i) if the horse is ridden by someone other than the rider for whom the downgrade is requested, it must compete at its previous level and any grading points earned will be awarded in relation to that previous level</li> <li>j) when a downgrade is granted the combination must fulfil any criteria regarding eligibility of horses/ponies for each level as outlined in 4.8.3.2</li> </ul>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
5.18	Exemption Cards and riders with a disability	Reworded for clarity and understanding	<p><b>5.18 Exemption Cards and riders with a disability</b></p> <p><del>In order that</del> To assist riders with a disability <del>may</del> to compete on equal terms, <del>an Exemption scheme has been established by EA.</del> exemption to the EA Dressage Rules can be considered for riders who:</p> <p><del>The scheme provides for exemption to EA Dressage Rules for riders who:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are members of Equestrian Australia</li> <li>• have <del>an identified a</del> diagnosed disability supported by medical documentation <del>but who are not eligible for Para-Equestrian classification</del> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) but who are not eligible for Para-Equestrian classification</li> <li>ii) would be eligible for Para-Equestrian classification but do not wish to be classified for PE competition</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exemptions may be approved for the use of special equipment or allowances which are considered reasonable and necessary to enable the rider 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.</p> <p>Each application is considered by the EA Exemption Committee comprising: <del>Once received, each application will be considered by the EA Exemption Committee comprising</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an accredited EA Para-Equestrian Classifier</li> <li>• an A level dressage judge with a knowledge of judging riders with a disability</li> <li>• an EA qualified coach with experience with riders with a disability</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Application for Exemption forms are available from EA at <a href="https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/exemption-cards-dressage">https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/exemption-cards-dressage</a>)</p> <p>Upon approval by the Committee the rider 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 riders with the appropriate exemption card.</p> <p><del>Applications for exemptions for religious dress requirements should be sent to the EADC. Safety and welfare may not be compromised by such exemptions.</del></p> <p>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 rider throughout the Competition. Para-Equestrian riders please refer to Section 10 for further information.</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
6.1.1	The Ground Jury	For the purpose of clarifying judges responsibilities while members of a Ground Jury at events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.1.1 The Ground Jury is responsible for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the technical judging of all individual and team competitions</li> <li>b) the allocation and verification of final placings in a competition</li> <li>c) settling all <b>technical</b> problems that may arise during the course of the event that come under their jurisdiction <b>within the field of play</b> - ref dot points d) and e) below.</li> <li>d) referring any written protests received for ' Horse Abuse' to the OC ( refer 1.3.1 and 5.1)</li> <li>e) referring any case which is beyond its jurisdiction to the EA State Branch responsible for the event.</li> <li><b>f) referring any technicalities or matters that are beyond the Ground Juries jurisdiction to the Chief Steward or TD, if appointed at the event in question, or to the OC.</b></li> <li>g) at the completion of judging the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by the OC of a competition must, prior to the formal posting of placings, be given the original of the score sheet which has to include riders' and horses' names, individual judge's marks, overall total, percentage and provisional placing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Other tasks of the ground jury include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by OC should quickly scan the document and when satisfied, sign and show the time of official posting of placings</li> <li>i) 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</li> <li>j) the members of the Ground Jury must not take into account 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</li> <li>k) at events where a TD/Chief Steward has not been appointed it is recommended that the OC nominate an official to assist with any technicalities that may arise.</li> </ul>



Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
10.13.1	Australian Youth Dressage C'ships 8–21 years	No such requirement is in place for other Sports National events being conducted in January and has no impact on FEI events held during the warmer months.	<p><b>10.13.1 Australian Youth Dressage Championships 8–21 years</b></p> <p>Australian Youth Dressage Championships are, in principle, to be conducted using the same rules as for the Australian championships.</p> <p>The Australian Youth Dressage Championships must be conducted in school holidays <del>but not in the January school holiday period because of horse welfare in competing and traveling horses during the summer period.</del></p> <p>a)</p>
11.15.3.1	Sharing of horses	Clarifying that sharing is only permitted between 2 PE riders and sharing between a PE and non-PE rider is prohibited.	<p><b>11.15.3.1 Sharing of horses</b></p> <p>a) for horses ridden by Grade I, II and III riders, the horse must only be ridden by a trainer/coach/groom for a total of 30 minutes (i.e. if 2 riders from Grades I or II share, they are only permitted 30 minutes total shared time between them, per day)</p> <p>b) arena familiarisation sessions are allocated on a horse basis, not rider basis and therefore only one session would be allocated to a horse shared by 2 riders</p> <p>c) where horses are shared by one rider from the lower Grades I, II and III and one rider from the higher Grades IV and V the following applies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on competition days, if the lower grade rider competes first, then 30 minutes schooling by a trainer/coach/groom/other rider will be permitted prior to the test. For the higher-grade rider, this is considered to be the 30 minutes schooling by the rider and therefore no further allocation of time will be permitted. This is on the grounds of horse welfare</li> <li>• on competition days where the higher-grade rider competes first, this is considered to be the 30 minutes schooling (by a trainer/coach/groom) permitted for the lower grade rider and therefore no further allocation of time will be permitted for the lower grade rider. This is on the grounds of horse welfare</li> <li>• on non-competition days, the horse may be ridden by both riders, 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 rider is schooling the horse for the lower grade rider</li> </ul> <p>d) <del>sharing is only permitted between 2 PE athletes within Grades and sharing between a PE and non-PE athlete at an event is prohibited.</del></p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
12.17	<b>Shadow judging and assessed sit-ins</b>	The word <b>entire</b> has been added to make sure that there is understanding that the whole class has to be judged when a candidate is shadow judging.	g) rule 12.11 details the <i>entire</i> number of competitions required for Shadow Judging and the requirement for Assessed Sit Ins.
<b>12.17.3</b>	<b>Ways for a candidate to shadow judge Procedures for Candidates and Clubs</b>	<p>To maintain consistency with the rules for both shadow judging and sit-ins</p> <p>The amendment will also align rule 12.17.3 d) with each levels' Pre Requisite' form which already states-</p> <p>Shadow Judge a minimum of 3 <i>entire</i> Elementary competitions with at least 10 horses in each (a total minimum of 30 horses to be judged overall - <i>may need to do more comps to get the total No of horses</i>) (<i>Supervising judge must be an appointed Mentor or a Judge Educator</i>)</p>	<p><b>12.17.3 Ways for a candidate to shadow judge Procedures for Candidates and Clubs</b></p> <p>a) candidates must obtain approval from the Judge Educator/Mentor judge prior to the competition</p> <p><del>b) a candidate can judge a Competitive, Participation, Restricted, Eventing, or Interschool competition in an unofficial capacity. Pony club competitions can also be used provided current EA Dressage tests are used – see below restriction</del></p> <p><del>• only 1 Eventing, Interschool or Pony Club shadow judging assessment is permitted</del></p> <p><b>b) a candidate can undertake Shadow Judging on Competitive, Participation, Restricted, Eventing, or Interschool competitions. Pony club competitions can also be used provided current EA Dressage tests are used and an approved JE/Mentor is officiating – see restriction below</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>only 1 Eventing, Interschool or Pony Club competition may be used as a shadow judging assessment</b></li> </ul> <p>c) the supervising judge for all shadow judging must be an appointed JE/Mentor of the required level as per rule 12.17.1</p> <p>d) all shadow judging for upgrading assessment must be carried out in conjunction with a competition - <b>note, the entire competition must be judged</b>, shadow judging by video is not permitted</p> <p>e) – l) remain the same</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
12.17.4	<b>Ways for a candidate to do assessed sit-ins</b>	To maintain consistency with the rules for both shadow judging and sit-ins	<p>Sitting-in (either assessed or not assessed) is a learning process and whilst there is now a compulsory element for an assessed sit-in for upgrading, all judges are encouraged to use sitting-in as a continuing learning exercise.</p> <p>Add a) candidate can undertake an assessed sit-in on Competitive, Participation, Restricted, Eventing, or Interschool competitions. Pony club competitions can also be used provided current EA Dressage tests are used and an approved JE/Mentor is officiating – see restriction below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only 1 Eventing, Interschool or Pony Club competition may be used as a sit-in assessment.</li> </ul> <p>b) candidates must obtain approval from the Judge Educator/Mentor judge prior to the competition</p> <p>Re-Alpha b) - i) of the remaining rule</p>
12.9	<b>Requirements for judges to remain accredited</b>	To eliminate confusion and bring Dressage Judges in line with all other EA officials	<p>12.9 Requirements for judges to remain accredited</p> <p>a) please note that the re-accreditation period covers 3 full years <del>e.g. e.g. 1/1/18 to 31/12/20</del> 1/04/2022 to 31/03/2025</p> <p>b) judges are required to complete the compulsory requirements between 1/1/22 and 31/12/24</p> <p>c) the reaccreditation process will take place in <del>February/March 2024</del> March 2022</p>

## Section 5 – Dress, Saddlery & Equipment

Section 5 has been reviewed with several amendments tidying up and addressing conformity in the rules.

Listed are the amendments that have been made in Section 5

### SECTION 5 DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

#### 5.1 Compulsory dress by level and penalties for incorrect dress and equipment

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**

- if dress, saddlery or equipment is “not permitted”, wearing-use of such items will entail elimination
- the wearing of “incorrect” dress for the appropriate level will incur a penalty of - 2 points from each judge.

Refer table Annex E

#### 5.1.1 Dress per level table

Level	Hat	Coat	Shirt	Stock / Tie	Jodhpurs/ Breeches	Boots	Gloves
Up to Medium level	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat as per 5.8	Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.	<u>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.</u>	White or light coloured breeches/ jodhpurs	Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots Black, brown or same colour as coat (see 5.3) with or without gaiters. (see 5.4)	<u>White, off white preferred or same colour as jacket.</u>
Advanced level	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat or tailcoat as per 5.8	A long, short sleeved or sleeveless shirt. <u>A stock, tie or ratcatcher must be worn and be securely pinned down. (see 5.7) and an appropriately pinned down stock, tie or ratcatcher must be worn.</u>	<u>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.</u>	Seat may be dark colour		<u>Must be worn, they may be white or a coordinating colour</u>
FEI Levels Prix St Georges – Grand Prix	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat or tailcoat, - colour as per FEI rules see 5.8		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 off-white breeches/ jodhpurs  Seat may be dark colour	Long Boots: Black or same colour as coat (see 5.3)	White, off white preferred or same colour as jacket
Optional at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>military personnel, police, etc, may wear service dress with a safety helmet</li> <li>spurs, whip, monkey grip, back protector</li> </ul>						

#### 5.3 Footwear

In regards to a rider’s footwear:

- all riders must wear riding boots, when mounted
- all boots must have heels and smooth soles or only lightly indented tread for safety reasons
- 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 closures
- all boots must be black, brown or same colour as jacket a single colour, except for top boots or gaiters with a decorative or hunting top. Refer table 5.1.1 for colour of boots
- decorative features on the top section of top boots or, gaiters or hunting tops are permitted only on the top edge of boots or hunting tops provided eding it is the same colour scheme as the boot or of a colour to match the jacket

#### 5.4 Gaiters/Chapettes

Riders please note:

- gaiters may be worn up to and including Advanced (Including YH events) with short coat only
- gaiters may only be worn with approved short boots

- c) the exposed side of the gaiter must be full grain leather
- d) the gaiters must match the colour of the boots, which must be black, brown or same colour as the coat
- e) Gaiters must be in brown, black or same colour as boots. Decorative or hunting tops are permitted refer to 5.3 f)
- ~~e) gaiters may have hunting tops but only in brown, black or same colour as the boots~~
- ~~f) suede on the exposed side of the gaiter is not permitted~~

## 5.8 Jackets and coats

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

- a) from Preliminary to Advanced levels (informal), a jacket or coat must be short, may be double breasted. Cutaway coats/mini tails are permitted providing they are cut straight across the back
- b) for Advanced and all FEI levels, a tailcoat is optional. Jackets are permitted
- c) up to Advanced, the colour of the jacket or coat should be a solid colour or a very faint or tweed pattern
- d) for FEI levels jackets and coats, any solid colour is permitted -should be a dark colour having a brightness value of less than 32% on the international HSV colour scale. Refer to the FEI website for Colour Chart [http://www.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/useful\\_docs](http://www.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/useful_docs)
- e) bright colours such as red, orange, pink, yellow, lime green, ~~purple~~ and wide contrast stripes and multi-coloured jackets and coats are not permitted
- f) accents such as piping and matching colour sections on collars and/or pocket flaps of a different colour to the coat are permitted
- g) tailcoats may be worn with snaffle
- h) wearing a coat is optional if the rider feels overheated
- i) waistcoats and fitted vests are permitted with jackets and coats or when jackets and coats are not worn in hot weather
- j) back protectors may be worn under or over the jacket or coat
- k) a non flapping rain jacket, either clear or similar colour to the coat may be worn over the coat in wet weather

## 5.10 Saddles and saddlecloths

In regards to permitted saddles and saddle cloths:

- a) a fully mounted dressage-type saddle (including all-purpose) of traditional or treeless construction is compulsory and may be used with or without a saddlecloth
- b) all parts of the saddle to be black or brown only. Coloured piping around the edges of the saddle is on the seat of the saddle permitted. The back of the cantle may reflect shades of the saddle.
- ~~c) Western saddles are not permitted and will entail elimination~~
- ~~d) any saddle that does not meet the required criteria will entail elimination~~
- ~~e) a crupper may be worn by ponies~~
- ~~f) saddlecloths may be square or shaped. White is preferred but pale colours permitted. Coloured piping is permitted.~~
- ~~g) a sheepskin/fleece girth cover is permitted~~

### 5.10.1 Stirrups

In regards to stirrups:

- a) must be black, ~~or~~ silver, gold or same colour as the rider's boots
- b) all safety stirrups, including toe stoppers, and open branches are permitted
- ~~1. lock in stirrups, stirrup tie downs and magnetised stirrups are not permitted~~
- ~~2.c) stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. The foot must not be fully enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets). Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch~~
- 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 rider must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddle or stirrup
- ~~d) lock in stirrups, stirrup tie downs and magnetised stirrups are not permitted~~
- ~~3.~~

### 5.11.1 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 rider to do so. If the rider 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 as long as ~~it~~ the padding does not interfere with the tightness of the noseband is securely attached

### 5.11.2 Bits

In regard to all 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 ~~prohibited~~ 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) the diameter of the mouthpiece must be such so as not to hurt the horse
- f) the diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece
- g) mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joints
- h) ~~wrapping of bit with any kind of material is not permitted~~

### 5.11.3 Snaffle bridle

A snaffle bridle is an English-type bridle with a single snaffle-type bit and one set of reins

- a) a snaffle bridle is compulsory in all tests up to and including Elementary level
- b) a snaffle bridle is optional at Medium level, Advanced and all FEI-level competitions
- c) ~~one-eared bridles are not permitted under penalty of elimination~~

## 5.12 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
<del>Balancing reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)</del>			<del>X</del>
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			X
Blinkers, any form			X
Boots, bell boots and bandages Penalties are cumulative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -2 pts from each judge if worn in the space around the arena</li> <li>• -2 pts from each judge if worn in the arena</li> </ul>	
Breastplates	Up to and incl Medium with a snaffle bridle		
Crystal mane bands			X

Snaffle Bridle	All levels	All levels	
Double bridle	Med & above & 7yo Young Horse competitions	Med & above & 7yo Young Horse competitions	
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		
Foregirths	All levels		
Grass reins			X
Headphones or similar devices		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
Monkey grip	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)		X	
Running martingales		with a snaffle bridle	
Running reins (e.g. chambon, deGogue)			X
Saddles – coloured piping	Yes		
Saddle covers (e.g. sheepskin or rain covers, etc)		X	
Stirrups – lock in, tie downs, magnetised			X
Tongue ties			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whip (1 only)</li> <li>Horses 1.2 m in length</li> <li>Ponies 1 m in length</li> <li>Refer to rule 5.6 for exceptions</li> <li>Penalties are cumulative</li> </ul>	All levels subject to conditions of the event	<b>In FEI level competitions at Australian &amp; State Championships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 per judge if carried circling arena in events where not permitted</li> <li>-2 per judge if carried in the arena-elimination if carried in test for more than 3 movements</li> </ul>	

### 5.19 Gear check list

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](http://www.equestrian.org.au/sport/dressage/equipment)

Please read carefully		Preliminary to Advanced	FEI tests at EA events*
<b>Headgear training/practice</b>	Approved safety helmet	Compulsory	Compulsory
<b>Headgear final warm-up and competition</b>	Approved safety helmet	Compulsory	Compulsory
	Helmet	Black or same colour as coat. A Reflective strip is permitted but not entire helmet	
<b>Jacket/Coat Refer to rule 5.1 and 5.8</b>	General	To be in <del>dark a solid</del> colour range. <del>– HSV blue, green, black, grey, brown.</del> Tweed coats permitted. Bright colours such as pink, red, orange, yellow, lime green, <del>purple</del> and wide contrast stripes and multi coloured coats not permitted	
	Short coat/jacket	✓	✓
	Tailcoat –colour as per rule 5.1.4	X Optional at Advanced level	✓
	Cutaway coat /mini tails are permitted providing they are cut straight	✓	✓

	across the back.		
<b>Jodhpurs or breeches</b>	Jodhpurs	✓	X
	Breeches	White, or light coloured	✓ White or off-white
<b>Shirt</b>	Refer to rule 5.7	Tucked in when not wearing a coat. Can be long sleeved, short sleeved, capped sleeve or sleeveless. Collar can be ratcatcher or business style – if latter tie must be worn	
<b>Tie, stock or ratcatcher</b>	Tie	✓	✓
	Stock	✓	White, off-white, pale colour or same colour as coat. Piping trim is permitted
	Ratcatcher	✓	✓
<b>Waistcoat</b>		✓	✓
<b>Gloves</b>		Compulsory at all levels	white preferred or a dark colour to match coat
<b>Please read carefully</b>		<b>Preliminary to Advanced</b>	<b>FEI tests at EA events*</b>
<b>Boots</b>	Short, <del>black or brown</del> boots	✓black/brown or same colour as coat	X
	Top boots	black/brown or same colour as coat ( <u>decorative or</u> hunting tops permitted)	black or same colour as coat
<b>Gaiters</b>	Black or brown or to match boots. Exposed side must be full grain leather.	✓	X
<b>Spurs</b>		Optional	Optional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be smooth metal. Shank must point directly back from centre of spur when on the boot</li> <li>• Must be a pair</li> <li>• <b>Tip</b> of shank must not point up or inward. Soft touch spurs with rolling ball on either vertical or horizontal plane</li> </ul>	<p>Rowels must be blunt/smooth and rotate freely. Daisy rowels permitted. Metal spurs with plastic knobs, 'swan-neck' spurs and dummy spurs (no shank) permitted.</p> <p><b>Pony riders</b>, regardless of age, may only wear spurs no longer than 4 cm. Length of the spur is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.</p> <p>Must be black or silver or same colour as rider's boots</p>	
<b>Whip</b>	Max length 1.2m horses and 1.0m ponies	✓	✓except in State/Aus Champs
<b>Saddle</b>	Dressage (including all-purpose), must be fully-mounted, used with or without a saddlecloth.		
<b>Monkey grip</b>		✓	✓
<b>Horse Identification Numbers</b>	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		
<b>Bridle, black or brown only</b>	Padding is permitted under bridles and must be discreet and applied to the underside of the bridle only		
	Snaffle	✓	optional
	Bit and bridoon	not permitted	optional Medium and above optional



	(Double),	Preliminary to Elementary	
<b>Nosebands, black or brown only</b>	Cavesson, Dropped Flash, Crossed (not for YH)	One (only) Compulsory see Section 5, rule 5.11.1. Only Cavesson permitted with double	One (only) Compulsory see Section 5, rule 5.11.4.3. Only Cavesson permitted with double
<b>False tails</b>	Permitted, but must not contain any metal parts (except for hooks and eyelets) or added weight	✓	FEI permission for CDIs
<b>Please read carefully</b>		<b>Preliminary to Advanced</b>	<b>FEI tests at EA events*</b>
<b>Additional gear</b>	Breastplate	only with snaffle and only up to and including Medium level	X
	Foregirth	✓	✓
	Crupper	Permitted only for Ponies (but not in YH)	
	Running martingale, bandages, brushing boots, over-boots, double bridle (all levels), saddle covers, 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 rider <b>must</b> remove the ear hood for checking if requested	
	Nose nets – Refer to 5.15 for details	Only permitted with EADC approval and evidence to be produced at gear check	
	Back protectors	Permitted all levels	
<b>Sponsor pocket badges</b> Refer to EA General Regs Article 135	Max 80 cm <sup>2</sup> , only breast height	✓	✓
<b>Sponsor saddlecloth badges</b> Refer to EA General Regs Article 135	Max 200 cm <sup>2</sup> on each side	✓	✓
<b>Bits:</b> Refer to Section 5 for descriptions and illustrations			

\* For FEI events (CDI3\*, CDI-W, CDI-Y, CDI-P, etc), dress and saddlery will be as per FEI rules (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org))