

Summary of Rule Changes

Equestrian Australia Eventing Committee

The following Eventing rule changes become effective 1 January 2026

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
538.1.2	Whips	At the entry levels riders that have calm, relaxed horses often wear spurs to better execute the transitions to trot and/or canter and are often not secure enough with their lower leg, or their legs are not long enough, to use spurs correctly and/or safely.	<p>538.1.2 Whips</p> <p>a) Training - A whip no longer than one 120 centimetres including lash is allowed when riding on the flat at any time. A whip no longer than 75 centimetres and not weighted at the end is allowed while jumping any obstacle.</p> <p>b) Horse Inspections - A whip no longer than 120 centimetres including lash is allowed at the Horse Inspections.</p> <p>c) Dressage Test - A whip is not allowed entering the space around the arena and during the Test.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p>Riders in EvA 80cm competitions and below may carry a whip when entering the space around the arena and during the test. A whip no longer than 120cm including lash, or a crop no longer than 75cm and not weighted at the end, is allowed.</p> </div> <p>d) Cross Country and Jumping Tests - A whip no longer than 75 centimetres and not weighted at the end is allowed during these tests.</p>
EA 543.4	National Dressage	As above	<p>EA 543.4 National Dressage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At CCN-L competitions a formal Ground Jury will be appointed with similar to FEI duties. • At CCN-S competitions there will be no formal Ground Jury. • Judges will be appointed to mark the Dressage Test. • A Technical Delegate (TD) is always present and is available to Judges at all times during the Event to assist with rule clarification. Judges should make sure they know who the TD is on the day and have radio contact with the TD.

- At CCN-S the Judges are only responsible for the Dressage phase in conjunction with the Technical Delegate.
- The Judge must report to the Technical Delegate any case of abuse of horse or lameness.
- Judges are to be aware of the FEI Eventing Dressage Rules.
- In exceptional circumstances the Technical Delegate may authorise the use of only one judge.
- Overseas National Judges, certified by their National Federation to be of a particular level of qualification, may also be used.
- A horse leaving the arena with all four feet between the time of entry at A and the time of exit at A will incur elimination if the arena is fully enclosed to the recommended minimum height of 30cms and the gate at A has been closed.
- A horse leaving the arena with all four feet between the time of entry at A and the time of exit at A will be awarded an error of course for the movement if the surrounds are not at least 30cms in height or if the arena has intermittent boards or line marking.
- If the arena is 30cms or over, a horse leaving the arena anywhere, other than through an open gate will be eliminated.
- A horse leaving the arena with all four feet between the time of entry at A and the time of exit at A, through the gate at A will be awarded an error of course for the movement if the gate has not been closed. When a horse makes such an “error of course” by leaving the arena with all four feet between the time of entry at A and the time of exit at A, the judge at C warns him, by sounding the bell. The President then directs him to re-enter the arena at the nearest practical place, then shows him, if necessary.
- Half marks will be used in all Eventing Dressage.
- **For competitions 95cm and above carrying a whip around arena -2. A whip or crop may be carried in competitions 80cm and below.**
- **For competitions 95cm and above, carrying a whip in the arena -2 (judge must ring the bell and ask rider to drop whip as soon as soon as noticed). A whip or crop may be carried in competitions 80cm and below.**
- Incorrect dress or saddlery -2 (other errors).
- Ear Hoods - permitted for all Events and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the Horse's eyes and ear plugs are not permitted.
- Falls in dressage arena (elimination).
- Lameness (Ask TD to organise a vet to check the horse before jumping phases rather than eliminate unless obviously uncomfortable and MARKEDLY lame).
- Blood on horses see rule 526.4.

544.2.5	Overall Impression of Athlete and Horse Mark	As Above	<p>544.2.5 Overall Impression of Athlete and Horse Mark</p> <p>In all Eventing Dressage Tests, one overall mark will be awarded for the Harmony of Athlete and Horse with a double coefficient.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Error of course and Other penalties</p> <p>....</p> <p>Unnoticed error.</p> <p>....</p> <p>Penalties. "Error of Course".</p> <p>....</p> <p>Other Errors Penalties</p> <p>All of the following are considered errors faults, and two (2) points will be deducted per other errors but they are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entering the space around the arena with whip (competitions 95cm and above only) or with boots on the Horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves) and/or; - Entering the Dressage arena with whip (competitions 95cm and above only) or with boots on the Horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves) If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and if needed and 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 he was stopped. The marks given before he was stopped are not changed; - Entering the arena before the sound of the bell; - Not entering the arena within forty five (45) seconds after the bell, but within ninety (90) seconds; - Athletes not taking the reins in one (1) hand at the salute </div>
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Annex J	EA Combined Training	As Above	<p>Annex J. EA Combined Training</p> <p>CT10. SADDLERY & DRESS</p> <p>As for National Eventing Rules. Whips are not allowed in the Dressage phase of competitions 95cm and above; however, a whip no longer than 120cm including lash, or a crop no longer than 75cm and not weighted at the end, may be carried in the Dressage phase of competitions 80cm and below.</p>
EA 543.4	National Dressage	The national eventing rules currently make no allowance for dressage tests to be called. For some riders, particularly the young or neurologically diverse, remembering an entire dressage test can be difficult. Allowing dressage tests to be called in participant level competitions (80cm and below) will help make eventing more inclusive.	<p>EA 543.4.1 Calling of tests</p> <p>For Participant level competition i.e. 80cm and below, dressage tests may be called.</p> <p>Regarding a test being called:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. tests may not be called <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at any Competitive level competition i.e. EvA95cm or above • at any Championship competition • in any competition where the Conditions of Entry excludes it • at any FEI-sanctioned competition (eg CCI / CCIP) b. where callers 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. protocol to be followed for calling tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the caller may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination • callers should stand with their back to the wind so riders can hear them. This can be at either E or B • it is advisable for riders to have a predetermined subtle signal to give to their callers if they need the movement to be re-called • riders must not speak to their callers • calling with too loud a voice should be avoided.
Annex J	EA Combined Training CT8. SCORING	For CT the count back should be the closest to Optimum Time in the Jumping not the fastest.	<p>CT8. SCORING</p> <p>528.1.6 Final Classification Tie (Individual) for Combined Training</p> <p>In the Event of equality between two or more Athletes, the classification is decided by:</p> <p>a) The best cross-country score including penalties for faults at obstacles, time penalties and any other penalty that the Athlete may have incurred on the Cross-Country Test.</p> <p>a) the Athlete with the highest positive Dressage points</p> <p>c) If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the Athlete whose crosscountry time was closest to the optimum time.</p> <p>b) If there is still equality, the Athlete with the best Jumping score including penalties at obstacles and time penalties.</p>

			<p>e) If there is still equality, the Athlete with the fastest time in the Jumping Test.</p> <p>c) If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the Athlete whose Jumping time was closest to under the optimum time.</p> <p>d) If there is still equality, the classification will be decided in favour of the Athlete with the best Overall Impression of Athlete & Horse mark in the Dressage Test.</p> <p>e) If there is still equality the tie will remain in the final classification</p>
538.2	<p>Dressage Test EA 538.2.1.1 Civilian</p>	<p>1. To include guidance on when a jacket / coat can be removed (wording taken from National Dressage Rules)</p> <p>2. Relocate placement of rule regarding shirt sleeves when no wearing a jacket</p> <p>3. Remove note re gloves in jumping dress guidelines</p>	<p>Jackets and coats: a solid colour or very faint or tweed pattern. Contrast colouring and piping allowed. Wearing a jacket / coat is optional if the rider feels overheated</p> <p>Shirts: Collar and parts that will be visible when wearing a jacket should be white, pale or coordinating colour. If jacket / coat is not being worn, shirt must have sleeves.</p> <p>Ratcatcher/Stock/Tie: white, off white a pale colour or same colour as coat, piping trim permitted. If jacket not being worn shirt must have sleeves.</p> <p>Breeches: white, fawn or cream.</p> <p>Gloves: Gloves are optional at CCN1* and levels below (leave out for jumping)</p> <p>Boots: Long boots black, brown or black with a brown top or same colour as the jacket, or short boots with matching full grain leather chaps.</p> <p>Boots must have a heel</p>

538.4	Jumping Test EA 538.4.1.1 Civilian	<p>1. To include guidance on when a jacket / coat can be removed (wording taken from National Dressage Rules)</p> <p>2. Relocate placement of rule regarding shirt sleeves when no wearing a jacket</p> <p>3. Make sure the entire rule appears in the text box (currently the last two lines are cut off)</p> <p>Jackets and coats: a solid colour or very faint or tweed pattern. Contrast colouring and piping allowed. Wearing a jacket / coat is optional if the rider feels overheated</p> <p>Shirts: Collar and parts that will be visible when wearing a jacket should be white, pale or coordinating colour. If jacket / coat is not being worn, shirt must have sleeves.</p> <p>Ratcatcher/Stock/Tie: white, off white a pale colour or same colour as coat, piping trim permitted.</p> <p>If jacket not being worn shirt must have sleeves.</p> <p>Breeches: white, fawn or cream.</p> <p>Boots: Long boots black, brown or black with a brown top or same colour as the jacket, or short boots with matching full grain leather chaps.</p> <p>Boots must have a heel</p>
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<h3 style="text-align: center;">Requirements to attain and maintain Eventing Judge accreditation</h3>				
Eventing Judge	Initial Requirements	Theory Requirements	Practical Requirements	To Maintain Accreditation
FEI Level 4	Refer to FEI promotion and maintenance requirements Candidates need to be a current EA B Judge to be eligible for promotion to FEI Level 4			
FEI Level 3	Refer to FEI promotion and maintenance requirements Candidates need to be a current EA C Judge to be eligible for promotion to FEI Level 3			
FEI Level 2	Refer to FEI promotion and maintenance requirements Candidates need to be a current EA Level 3 or D Judge to be eligible for promotion to FEI Level 2			
FEI Level 1	FEI Level 1 Candidates must be a current EA Level 3 Eventing Judge to be eligible to be put forward to FEI Education System.			
Level 3 National Competition Level CCN4* S/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current EA D Level Dressage Judge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended an EA Dressage Judges D Level/Medium Seminar EA Dressage D Level Written Paper Pass Mark 80% Complete Eventing TD/CD ORBT 80% pass mark Complete Eventing Judge ORBT 90% pass mark. Attend EA Eventing Officials course for TD/CD with a positive <u>assessment</u> previous 3 years for each upgrade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed Shadow Judge- Minimum 4 entire EA Medium competitors to be judged- Minimum number of horses in each competition 6 (more is recommended) Sit in at least two separate competitions with a different Mentor/JE Judge an entire EA Medium competition minimum number of horses 15 Officiated at all phases of 1 CNCL with a positive assessment from PGJ TD,CD Shadow Officiate at all phases 1 x CCIS/L with a positive assessment from PGJ TD,CD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain re-accreditation requirements to remain listed as a EA Dressage Judge D Level Preferably Attend an EA Eventing Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA.
Level 2 National Competition Level CCN3*S/L (E Level) CCN2*S/L CCN1*S/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current EA E/F Level Dressage Judge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA State Based E/F Level Dressage Judges Seminar Complete E/F written paper with 80% pass mark Attend an EA Eventing Officials Course for TD/CD with a positive assessment previous 3 Complete Eventing TD/CD ORBT 80% pass mark Complete Eventing Judge ORBT 90% pass mark. years for each upgrade. Candidates are encouraged to attend XC course walks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed Shadow Judge- Minimum 30 horses at EA Novice/Elementary Level Dressage or Eventing Competition Minimum number of competitions to be judge is 3 Minimum number of horses to be judged in each competition is 10 Sit in at least two separate competitions with a different Mentor/JE Judge an entire EA competition Novice/Elementary competition minimum number of horses 15 Shadow Officiate at all phases 1 x CNC1*S/L with a positive assessment from PGJ TD,CD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain re-accreditation requirements to remain listed as a EA Dressage Judge E/F Level Preferably attend an EA Eventing Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA.

			<p>Level 1 National Competition Level EvA95 EvA80 EvA60 EvA45 Maybe side Judge for CCN1*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a current EA member and 18 years of age • Be an EA G Level Dressage Judge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Attend an EA State Based G Level Dressage Judges Seminar</u> • <u>Complete G Level ORBT with 90% pass mark</u> • <u>Attend EA Eventing Officials Course for TD/CD with a positive assessment</u> previous 3 years for each upgrade. • <u>Complete Eventing TD/CD ORBT 80% pass mark</u> • <u>Complete Eventing Judge ORBT 90% pass mark</u> • <u>Candidates are encouraged to attend EA Dressage/ Eventing Seminars</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mentored and Positive Sit in with a Judge Mentor/JE at an EA Official Dressage or Eventing competition.</u> • <u>Shadow Judge an entire 4 whole class with a Prelim competition minimum number of horses minimum 10 horse at Prelim Level</u> • <u>Shadow Judge an entire Novice competition 4 whole class with a minimum number of horses 10 horse at Novice Level</u> • <u>Shadow Officiated at all phases of 1 x CNCS/L or CCIS/L with a positive assessment from PGI TD,CD</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintain re-accreditation requirements to remain listed as a EA Dressage Judge G Level</u> • <u>Preferable attend an EA Eventing Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA.</u>
522.1	<p>Reverse Qualification – Horse</p> <p>Currently item 522.1 allows riders to retire rather than face the risk of subsequent eliminations and a mandatory reverse qualification</p> <p>As much as we support the idea of consolidating at a level, we believe that too many riders are putting progression</p>	<p>A reverse qualification is triggered by 2 consecutive eliminations or a combination of any 4/5 consecutive eliminations and/or retirements</p>			

		<p>ahead of responsibility. Multiple and consecutive retirements/eliminations clearly reflects that they are struggling and may compromise rider safety and horse welfare</p>	
525	Dangerous Riding 525.1 Definition	<p>TD's asking for this to be added as a National Rule – in a grey box</p>	<p>I) Jumping a fence more than 30cm in height from a standstill.</p>