



Equestrian Australia Driving Committee – Rule Updates
For implementation 1 January 2024

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
3.0	Acceptance of the Rules	Providing Integrity of the Sport EA Rules link	<p>3.0 Acceptance of the Rules</p> <p>a) All members of EA shall accept and be bound by these rules.</p> <p>b) Making an entry for any EA Participant/Competitor Event constitutes implicit acceptance of these rules.</p> <p>c) Competitors/Participants are responsible for knowing and complying with these rules.</p> <p>d) It remains the full responsibility of the Athlete and Navigator/Backstepper to comply with the equipment and dress rules as outlined.</p> <p>e) Breach of the rules may entail elimination.</p> <p>f) EA Driving Rules apply from the time the Athlete and horse/s arrive on the grounds, on the designated day/s of the event.</p> <p>g) The Integrity of the Sport EA Rules – Reporting and Complaint Process – Link - https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/report-concern</p>
4.0	Jurisdiction	Additional clarification of the jurisdiction of the Chief Judge. Aligns with Art.952 3.1 and Art. 987 3.2 of FEI rules	<p>4.0 Jurisdiction</p> <p>The Chief Judge, with input from the Organising Committee, is ultimately responsible for the judging of the event and for settling all problems that may arise during its jurisdiction. This includes the duty and full authority at any time during the event to eliminate any horse that is lame, sick or exhausted and any Athlete that is unfit to continue. If a TD is appointed, they are responsible in consultation with the Chief Judge for settling any problems that may arise during the period of the event.</p> <p>The Chief Judge may, at their sole discretion, ring the bell (in Dressage/Cones) or stop the Athlete (in Marathon) to eliminate a turnout whilst in competition, if this would be in the best interest of the wellbeing and/or safety of the horse and /or athlete. The decision to eliminate is final and not subject to appeal or protest.</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
5.0	Conflict of Interest	<p>Judges changed to Officials to capture all officials.</p> <p>Clarifying timeframe</p>	<p>5.0 Conflict of Interest Judges Officials-must declare to the Organising Committee any conflict of interest before that committee confirms the judge's appointment. This would include information about family members, previous or current ownership of a horse, commercial interests, coaching, training, anticipated accommodation address during the event, recent protocol day presentations that Athletes may have attended, or where there is an employer/employee relationship.</p> <p>Where an Official has provided instruction to an Athlete or trained a horse entered in the competition, within 14 days prior, they cannot be a judge at that competition.</p> <p>Organising Committees must make the best decision. There is always the option of allowing an Athlete to take part Hors Concours (HC), that is, able to take part in the event but not be awarded a place in the class.</p>
7.0	Anti-Doping and Medication Control	Clarifies the conditions required to be met by the OC.	<p>7.0 Anti-Doping and Medication Control Horses taking part in an EA competition must not be under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is in the FEI Veterinary Regulations. EA agrees and uses the same definition. Any doping or illicit use of medication constitutes a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated.</p> <p>Organising Committees work together with their EA State body to provide opportunities for medication control sampling (swabbing). Athletes should always conscientiously abide by the EA Medication Control policies so that where medication control does occur, it will never be an issue. Entry to any EA Participant/Competitor event implicitly implies that the Athlete is aware that medication control may take place.</p> <p>Organising Committees must abide by the conditions of the EA Medication Control Policy as published on the EA website.</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
8.0	Risk Management	Where no TD or Steward is appointed at an event (i.e.club level) the Organising Committee must appoint a Welfare or Safety person to ensure the integrity of the Welfare of the Horse is observed.	<p>8.0 Risk Management and Medical Services</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Organising Committee and the Chief Judge to inspect the venue including the arenas to determine safety for Athletes and Horses to compete, prior to the start of the event.</p> <p>At events with classes up to Drive-2, the Organising Committee must ensure that a person who has a current First Aid certificate including CPR and has completed EA training on the Concussion protocol is available on the grounds at all times during the event.</p> <p>When an Athlete has an accident that results in a concussion or suspected concussion, the Athlete must be eliminated from that class and disqualified from the rest of the event, and the Concussion Protocol initiated. More information, including links to the mandatory reporting resources, is provided on the EA website under Risk Management.</p> <p>Where no Technical Delegate or EA Steward are appointed at an event, the Organising Committee must appoint a Welfare of the Horse and Safety Officer. This person is responsible for observing Welfare of the Horse under EA requirements and for reporting accidents or near miss incidents to the Organising Committee and Chief Judge for investigation.</p>
9.4.1	Age of Athletes and Navigator/ Backstepper	Clear clarification of age	Age of driver or backstepper is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which the Athlete or Navigator/Backstepper member reaches the designated age and until the end of that same year.
15.2.12	Carriages - General	Clarifying use of whip	<p>15.2.12 A whip must be on all carriages, but there is no penalty for putting this down, in any Drive-1 or Drive-2 class.</p> <p>The Driving whip is entirely different from the use of a whip when riding, as the whip aid effectively replaces the leg aid. The use of the whip should be subtle and for the most part, soundless or almost soundless, as the horse receives the messages the Driver is delivering. The use of the whip in this manner will never leave a mark on the horse. Using the whip in any other way will incur (a penalty or written warning)</p>
17.3.2	Challenge Tests	Relocated in the rulebook	17.3.2 now be Challenge tests (from page 36) and the existing 17.3.2 now be renumbered to 17.3.3

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
17.3.4	Officials to be appointed at EA Driving Events	Table moved from Annex 6 to become 17.3.4.	
17.5.2	17.5 Athlete and Horse Combination Qualification	Review of qualification score	<p>17.5.2 In order to compete in an EA CAN1* event, an Athlete and Pony/Horse/s combination must have successfully:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed an FEI CAI1*, OR b) Completed an EA CAN1* event or higher, with a Dressage score of at least 60%, OR c) Completed TWO Competitor Drive-2 classes (either Dressage and Cones, or Challenge tests), and have achieved at least 60% in a Dressage test or 65% in a Challenge test in each. One HC score may be counted in this. The two classes need to be either at different events, or at least have different judges, OR d) Applied to the EA National office for consideration of an equivalent performance record, and this has been accepted.

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
17.9	One Horse, One Athlete	<p>In line with FEI World Challenge Rules.</p> <p>Provides opportunity for one horse to be driven by more than one athlete - reduces cost, increases participation and allows for improved skills development.</p>	<p>17.9 One Horse, One Two Athletes</p> <p>Each individual horse may be entered by two Athletes for the duration of the event. Only the Athletes who have entered the horse may drive that horse in the warm-up and in classes. The Athletes or another EA member may lunge, long-rein or ride the horse on the grounds, for exercise. Another EA member may also drive the horse/s at a walk with carriage on a long rein preceding the warmup, or as a cool-down, or when both Athletes are otherwise occupied, and are not available to sit in the driver's seat.</p> <p>For safety, a competent driver who is at least an EA Participant member, needs to be in the driver's seat once the horse is harnessed to the carriage. The correct number of Backsteppers/Navigators with at least EA Participant membership must be on the carriage at all times when the carriage is moving.</p> <p>Except in extenuating circumstances in the case of Pair and Four in hand entries, each individual horse may only be entered by one Athlete for the duration of the event.</p> <p>Only the Athlete who has entered the horse may drive that horse in the warm-up and in classes. The Athlete or another EA member may lunge, long-rein or ride the horse on the grounds, for exercise. Another EA member may also drive the horse/s at a walk on a long rein preceding the warmup, or as a cool-down, or when the Athlete is otherwise occupied, and is not available to sit in the driver's seat.</p> <p>For safety, a competent driver who is at least an EA Participant member, needs to be in the driver's seat once the horse is harnessed to the carriage. The correct number of Backsteppers/Navigators with at least EA Participant membership must be on the carriage at all times when the carriage is moving.</p> <p>In the case of a Pair or Four in hand, a horse may be loaned to another Athlete to complete a Pair, or up to two horses to complete a Four in hand, provided each horse is not used for more than three phases in a day, AND the Athlete informs the Organising Committee that they are competing HC (Hors Concours, that is, able to compete but not be awarded a place in the class).</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
17.11	Starting Order	Clarifies if an Athlete has more than one turnout entered in the competition that the OC allows suitable time in the draw for an Athlete to change between turnouts and provide suitable warm up time	<p>17.11 Starting Order A draw will be provided to Athletes by the Organising Committee at least three days ahead of the event.</p> <p>Horses should have at least a 60-minute break between phases and classes, wherever possible. The Organising Committee and the Athlete should discuss if this time limit is not practical and reach an amicable decision.</p> <p>The Organising Committee (in consultation with a TD if appointed) has the final say on all decisions relating to the starting order.</p> <p>If an Athlete has two turnouts entered in the competition there needs to be a minimum of 50 minutes allowed in the draw between starting times for each turnout to allow for a suitable period for the Athlete to warm up the horse.</p>
18.3.2	18.3 Definition of Paces and Movements	Added a definition of the requirements for rein back so that the judge has adequate guidelines on which to assess this movement	<p>18.3.2 Reinback The horse must perform the rein back by walking backwards in a straight line with the legs lifted and set down in diagonal pairs, remaining on the bit and not resisting the contact, with the poll remaining the highest point.</p>

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
18.14	18.14 Resistance/Disobedience	Rewording for clarity	<p>18.14 Resistance/Disobedience Any marked resistance or disobedience for a prolonged period in the forward movement (refusal to go forwards, kicking or rearing) is considered as a disobedience and will be penalised by the Chief Judge, as follows:</p> <p>a) 1st Incident - 1% deducted from final percentage b) 2nd Incident - another 2% deducted from final percentage c) 3rd Incident - Elimination The Chief Judge may choose to eliminate the athlete BEFORE the third incident if they consider that there is a safety or horse welfare issue.</p>
18.20	18.20 Summary of Dressage Penalties	Section heading adjusted and penalties moved to one location in the rulebook.	<p>18.20 Summary of Dressage Penalties</p> <p><i>Now divided into 2 sections</i></p> <p>18.20.1 Dressage Penalties (as already listed in the rulebook under 18.20)</p> <p>18.20.2 Challenge Test Penalties (21.2 from page 37, 21.2 deleted from rulebook).</p>
19.1	Cones Course Requirements	<p>Wording to clarify where in the FEI rules description can be located</p> <p>Clarify how to maintain the integrity of the course in the event that an obstacles needs to be rebuilt</p> <p>Clarify that OC needs to have a measuring stick</p>	<p>19.1.8 Refer to ARTICLE 974 of the FEI Rules for a detailed description of Cones Obstacles.</p> <p><i>Added addition points to the section</i></p> <p>19.1.11 It is highly recommended that the position of the cones be marked on the ground for each obstacle so that if it is knocked down it is quickly able to be rebuilt</p> <p>19.1.12 Organising Committee's need to ensure that a measuring stick is available so that all obstacles can be measured for accuracy of setting the distances between cones, which must be measured from inside of each cone at ground level</p>

Annex 6 Role of Driving Officials

Justification: Defined duties and responsibilities for the various officials roles are not currently included in the rulebook.

EA Driving Judge Roles and Responsibilities

A judge is a member of a Ground Jury appointed to control a Competition or Event. The number of judges and the levels required for the level of the Competition is as set out in the EA Driving Rules.

As a Member of the Ground Jury, the Driving Judge shares the responsibility for the technical running of Competitions or Events in accordance with the EA (and FEI) Rules and Regulations.

Where appointed as the Chief Judge (FEI: President of the Ground Jury), in the absence of a Technical Delegate, will oversee that the Rules, Regulations and technical requirements for the running of the Competition, cooperation between Officials and other principal stakeholders are respected and upheld in order to achieve the best possible outcome of the Event.

It is desirable for the Driving Judge to have knowledge relative to following areas:

- EA and FEI Rules and Regulations and Officials Code of Conduct
- Principles of Horse Welfare
- Principles of course design for cones
- Principles of the duties of the Technical Delegate (if appointed)
- Tack and other equipment
- Able to assess situations and make appropriate decisions
- Oversee conditions and /or surface area for each of the competitions is safe
- Ensure the Dressage arena is set out correctly
- Judge the Dressage Test
- Judge the Cones courses
- Oversee the Marathon (CAN events)
- Liaise with the Organising Committee/Event Director and offer suggestions for improvements
- To be present for the duration of the Event

All judges must hold either EA Competitor or Supporter Membership

A Driving Judge may not compete in any Competition for which they are appointed.

CAN EVENTS

Where several judges are engaged to Officiate, then a Chief Judge would be appointed to oversee the role of the Ground Jury.

The Chief Judge will also oversee the running of the Marathon.

The Chief Judge may also be required to meet and discuss organisational and technical matters with other parties such as, but not limited to, OC/Event Director, Chief Steward, Course Designer, Technical Delegate, and Veterinarians etc.

Technical Delegate Duties and Responsibilities

Technical Delegates are required to approve administrative arrangements for an Event from the time of their appointment until the end of the Event. They will commence their duties early enough to be able to satisfy themselves that the accommodation and the stabling for the horses, and the training area etc, are suitable in all respects.

The Technical Delegate should be at the venue of the Event at least on the day before the start of the first Competition.

A Technical Delegate is appointed by EA Sport Committees for EA National Championship Events, and are to be selected from the official EA lists.

For State Championship Events, the appointment of a Technical Delegate is not compulsory but is recommended.

For other events, a Technical Delegate is not compulsory unless stated otherwise in the rules, but OC's are encouraged to appoint a person selected from the EA list of Technical Delegates to assist in the preparation and conduct of the Events.

The Technical Delegate has the following duties and responsibilities at the Event:

- To inspect the course and arenas and to ensure that the technical details are in accordance with the Regulations and Rules.
- To be satisfied that the course is fair and that knowledge of local conditions would not give an unfair advantage.
- To advise the OC and instruct the Course Designer to make any alterations to the arena or the course, or to any technical detail associated with the conduct of the Competition that he or she considers necessary.
- To help the Ground Jury to supervise the technical conduct of the Competition after indicating to the Chief Judge satisfaction with the arrangements
- Technical Delegates appointed by EA Sport Committees are required to send a report to that committee at the conclusion of the Event.

All Technical Delegates must hold either EA Competitor or Supporter membership.

A Technical Delegate may not compete in any Competition for which they are appointed.

Course Designer Duties and Responsibilities

A Course Designer is to be appointed by EA Sport Committees for EA National Championship Events, and are to be selected from the official EA lists.

For State Championship Events, the appointment of a Course Designer is not compulsory but is recommended.

The Course Designer is responsible to the Technical Delegate (where appointed) or Chief Judge. The Course Designer will:

- Set up the arena for Driven Dressage
- Design, lay out and measure the Cones Course
- Construction of the Obstacles in Marathon (CAN events)
- Providing a course map to the TD and Ground Jury and to be available during the Course walk if required to answer questions

The Chief Judge will declare the Competition ready to start when the Technical Delegate or the Course Designer has reported that the course is ready. Thereafter the Ground Jury is solely responsible for the conduct of the Competition.

All Course Designers must hold either EA Competitor or Supporter membership
A Course Designer may not compete in any Competition for which they are appointed.

Chief Driving Steward Duties

The Chief Driving Steward should be experienced preferably in the Sport of Driving.

The OC's of Events should, for State and National Championships, appoint a Chief Steward and an appropriate number of Stewards under the authority of the Chief Steward wearing distinctive EA identification.

Driving Stewards are responsible for:

- Where reasonably practical, intervene to prevent any abuse of the horse by riders, grooms, owners or any other person.
- Observation of every part of the stables, exercise, lunging and warm up areas and all other areas under the control of the OC.
- Checking and measuring all the carriages after Driven Dressage and Cones.
- Be familiar and assist with medication control rules and procedures.

Driving Stewards report to the Chief Judge or Organising Committee:

- any contravention of the Rules pertaining to Carriages, tyres, harness, bits
- any incident relating to the Rules and Regulations for Welfare of the Horse

At National Championships and major Events, the Chief Steward is required to send a report to the EA State Branch regarding the event as a whole and on any incident which occurs during that event. A copy of the report is given to the Steward General and to the President of the OC of the event.

All Stewards must hold either EA Competitor or Supporter membership.

A Steward may not compete in any Competition for which they are appointed.

Annex 7 Officials - Education and Accreditation Pathway for Driving Officials

Justification: Course Designer requirements now complete and ready to be added to the Rule Book as below.

Requirements to attain and maintain Driving Course Designer Accreditation

Course Designer	Initial Requirements	Theory Requirements	Practical Requirements	To Maintain Accreditation
FEI Level	Refer to FEI promotion requirements Candidates need to be a current Level 3 Course Designer to be eligible for promotion to FEI.			
Level 3 National (All EA Driving Competitions including EA CAN 1* & 2*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current registered EA Level 2 Driving Course Designer for minimum of 1 year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Course previous 3 years Successfully complete the EA Driving Course Designer ORBT with a pass mark of 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officiated at 2 EA-Driving events as an EA Driving CD covering all phases in previous 3 years. Assist EA Level 3 or higher Driving CD at two competitions which includes Marathon Phase in previous three years Recommend but not mandatory to attend EA Eventing TD/CD course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA. Have officiated as an EA Driving CD a minimum of 1 time in the previous 3 years
Level 2 National (All EA Driving Competitions up to and including EA CAN1*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current registered Level 1 Driving Course Designer for minimum of 1 year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Course previous 3 years Successfully complete the EA Driving Course Designers ORBT with a pass mark of 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officiated at 2 EA Driving events covering Dressage and Cones phases in the previous 3 years. Assist EA Level 3 or higher Driving CD at one competition which includes Marathon Phase in previous three years. Recommend but not mandatory to attend training lessons with an EA Driving Coach. If possible one session should include multiples. Recommend but not mandatory to attend EA Eventing TD/CD course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA. Have officiated as an EA Driving CD a minimum of 1 time in the previous 3 years
Level 1 National (EA Drive-1 & 2 Challenge Tests and EA Drive-1 & 2 Dressage Tests & Cones Courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current EA member over 18yrs old Have a minimum of one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a registered EA Level 1 or higher General or Driving Coach Competed at the minimum of 1 EA/FEI Driving Competition Be a registered EA CD in another discipline Be registered as a Driving Official/CD with another Driving Organisation Be a Provisional Driving CD for 1 year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Course previous 3 years Successfully complete the EA Driving Course Designers ORBT with a pass mark of 80% Complete AIS Community Officiating Principles Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist at 1 EA/FEI Cones event at any level in past three years Assist at 1 EA/FEI Marathon event in the past three years Assist an EA Driving CD at two EA/FEI events at any level. Recommend but not mandatory to attend training lessons with an EA Driving Coach. If possible one session should include multiples. Recommend but not mandatory to attend EA Eventing TD/CD course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Update Clinic/Course every 3 years and other stipulated reaccreditation requirements set by EA. Have officiated as an EA Driving CD a minimum of 1 time in the previous 3 years
Provisional (Interested)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a current EA Member over 18 years old Interested in EA/FEI Driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an EA Driving Officials Course previous 3 years Successfully complete the EA Driving Course Designers ORBT with a pass mark of 80% Have current copies of EA/FEI Driving Rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist an EA Driving Course Designer Attend and assist with EA Driving Competitions 	

Note: An FEI Driving Course Designer can apply to the EA National Driving Committee for consideration to be approved for immediate appointment as an EA National Level 3 Driving Course Designer