



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Rule Changes Summary
For implementation 1 January 2024
(6 December 2023)

Rule	Definitions
Heading	Definitions
Justification	Define 'Marshal' – as a volunteer role, providing assistance to the management of horses and riders on the field of play. Define 'National Candidate Steward' – now will have a role they can fulfil during 2024 if approved by the EADC. Refer to rule 6.4
Revised Rule	
<p>A Marshal is a volunteer who is neither an EA-accredited Steward or non-accredited Candidate Steward who is appointed by an EA-accredited Steward or OC to assist with the management of riders and horses on the field of play to ensure the smooth running of an event.</p> <p>A National Candidate Steward is a person who has attended an EA Official Stewards course but has yet to fulfil all other required prerequisites to meet official status.</p>	

Rule	1.4
Heading	Bleeding
Justification	(b) incorrect, removed. Gear Checker removed - Refer rule 4.4 for further information.
Revised Rule	
<p>1.4 Bleeding</p> <p>a) if the Judge at C sights fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the judge clarifies through examination that the horse shows no fresh blood, the test may resume</p> <p>b) the sighting of any fresh blood on the horse at the gear check prior to or during the test will entail elimination. There is no appeal against this decision.</p> <p>e)b) if the Steward or approved representative of the steward gear-checker discover fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the horse. If the Steward or approved representative of the steward gear-checker discover fresh blood anywhere else on the horse's body at the end of the test, the horse is not automatically eliminated, but the Judge at C may eliminate the horse</p> <p>d)c) a veterinarian may inspect the horse after elimination to decide if the horse is fit to continue in another test and inform the OC in writing of the decision prior to that test. The veterinarian's opinion is final</p>	

Rule	1.6.1
Heading	A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible (PR) for the following:
Justification	Clarifying consequence of not complying with Stallion Identification rules
Revised Rule	
<p>1.6.1 A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible (PR) for the following:</p> <p>a) abuse of horse (an action or omission involving the mistreatment of a horse). Any incidents considered to be serious Abuse of the Horse may be better dealt with through the formal Protest procedure as outlined in Dressage Rule 1.3.1. However, it is possible to both issue a Yellow Warning Card and pursue formal protest procedure</p> <p>b) abuse of an Official (including abusive or bullying behaviour directed to an Official and conduct directed toward an Official that denigrates the Official)</p> <p>c) failure to follow a direction of an Official relating to compliance with these rules</p> <p>d) serious infringements involving Abuse of Horse, Abuse of an Official or failure to follow a direction relating to compliance with these Rules must incur a Yellow Warning Card, unless lodged as a formal protest and subject to EA General Regulations (see above)</p> <p>e) failure to comply with Stallion Identification as per Stallion Safe Practice Rules & Regulations Policy</p>	

Rule	3.4
Heading	Timing of the Draw
Justification	Highlight that competition draws should be random
Revised Rule	
<p>3.4 Timing of the draw</p> <p>a) it is strongly recommended to allow 60 to 90 minutes between tests for the same horse, and at least 90 minutes at the FEI levels as these are more strenuous tests</p> <p>b) where a rider has more than one horse in a competition, 90 minutes should be timetabled between rides to allow rider to go from one horse to the other, however riders may opt for less on the day of event</p> <p>c) combinations should be listed in random order on the draw, the same combinations should not follow each other in draws if possible</p> <p>d) every effort should be made to not have the same combination drawn first in more than one test at any one event</p>	

Rule	3.12.2
Heading	Riding in competition, warm-up and exercise areas
Justification	Clarify time frames for the application of competition rules
Revised Rule	
<p>a) <u>competition rules apply once a competitor arrives at the event venue</u></p> <p>b) access to arenas for the purpose of familiarisation is recommended. Access to competition arenas is at the discretion of the Chief Judge for the competition or the OC. Riding in or entering the competition arena without permission will entail elimination</p> <p>c) the above rule applies also when competition arena(s) are erected on the day(s) preceding an event</p> <p>d) where an arena is a permanent fixture this rule applies from the time the OC has deemed it to be a competition arena and this time should be publicly advertised</p> <p>e) from twenty-four hours prior to the event starting, a horse may be ridden only by its nominated rider on the competition grounds. However, a groom may walk the horse on a long rein only. Grooms when riding must wear approved footwear (smooth sole with heel) and approved safety helmet with chin strap done up</p> <p>f) all competitors are to be given equal warm-up time around the competition arena. Therefore, riders are not to enter the area around the competition arena until their start time</p> <p>g) only horses entered in the event are permitted to use the warm-up area</p> <p>h) any horse on the grounds that is not entered in the event is not permitted in the warm-up area (either ridden or led) until after the completion of competitions for that day</p> <p>i) riders may not be led when mounted in the warmup area. Horses can be led into and out of the warmup arena but once in the warmup arena the groom is to take the horse off the lead line</p> <p>j) a maximum duration of pre-competition warm-up or training of one hour is the standard; riders require permission from the Chief Steward (which will be granted only in exceptional circumstances) to extend a training session beyond one hour. The warm-up or training session must include relaxation periods, they do not include walking on a loose rein, to or from stables, or for exercise prior to or post warmup. Riders are also reminded that post-test repetition of movements may not exceed 10 minutes</p>	

Rule	3.20
Heading	Prize Money
Justification	Prize Money rule wording reviewed and updated
Revised Rule	
<p>In regards to the offer and payment of prize money or goods in kind in competitions. Prize money referred to in these rules can be replaced with goods in kind to an equivalent value:</p> <p>a) all prize money and prizes are made to the owner/s of the horse/pony. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure the correct banking details for prize money are provided at the time of entry.</p> <p>b) in the following Official events, if an entry fee is charged, then prize money or goods in kind to the value of the prize money must be given as per rule c) to at least the first three placings and the value of the third prize must not be less than the entry fee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Championships • State Championships • Regional Championships- <p>c) prize money/goods in kind to be allocated on the basis of 1 for every 5 starters e.g. 35 starters, prize money/goods in kind to at least 7th place with 3rd place being no less than the entry fee.</p> <p>d) If less than five starters, the prize money is at the discretion of the OC and details must be included in the schedule.</p> <p>e) first prize must not exceed one third of the total value of the prize money, except for special competitions as defined in the schedule.</p> <p>f) at all other events the payment and amount value of prizes to be paid is at the discretion of the OC and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the details regarding number of prizes is at the discretion of the OC • the payment of prize money/goods in kind to horses and ponies may be different • OCs that intend paying prize money/goods in kind should make this intention known in the schedule <p>g) prize money/ goods in kind must be awarded according to the schedule.</p>	

Rule	3.23
Heading	Fall or injury to horse or rider
Justification	Align wording with EA General Regulations and define 'medical practitioner'
Revised Rule	
<p>3.23 Fall or injury to horse or rider</p> <p>In the event of a fall by horse or rider or other traumatic incident the following applies:</p> <p>a) it is the decision of the OC's designated first aid official to assess whether the rider may continue to compete at the event without first getting a medical clearance (from a medical practitioner – Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency [AHPRA] registered doctor)</p> <p>b) where a knock to the rider's head or body that transmits a force to the head is suspected, refer to Annex G -the EA Concussion Policy applies</p> <p>c) in the case of the horse, a vet or horse welfare officer will assess if the horse can continue to compete in that event</p>	

Rule	4.3
Heading	Scratchings/Withdrawals
Justification	To clarify refund conditions, including once the event has commenced.
Revised Rule	
In regards to any scratching or withdrawing from a test or competition:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a competitor may withdraw any or all of the horses that he/she has entered, subject to the Conditions of Entry - which will take precedence over these rules b) a refund may only be made if documented proof (i.e. veterinary or medical certificate) is provided prior to the commencement of the event or produced within 24 hours 3 days of the completion of the event to the Event Secretary c) a refund shall be a minimum of 50% of the entry fee. The administration fee is not refundable. Any additional fees as incurred by the OC, refunded at the discretion of the OC as stated in the schedule d) No refunds will be issued for withdrawals/scratchings advised from the day prior to the commencement of the event. 	

Rule	4.4
Heading	Gear Check
Justification	Align with FEI gear check requirements; gear check to be performed immediately after leaving the arena
Revised Rule	
4.4 Gear check	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a gear check is compulsory for each test and failure to have a gear check will entail elimination <u>b) An Accredited Steward (or approved representative of the Steward) must be appointed to check the Saddlery of each Horse immediately after it leaves the arena. Any discrepancy will be reported to the Judge at C. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some Horses are very sensitive about their mouths.</u> <u>c) If the Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete</u> <u>d) If the Steward discovers fresh blood on other parts of the horse they inform the Judge at C.</u> <u>e) A visual check before leaving the last warm up arena may be conducted by the Stewards to prevent Athletes going into the field of play with any forbidden equipment.</u> <p><u>A visual check can be declined, as it is designed to help Athletes but is not compulsory. However, it remains the full responsibility of the Athlete not to enter with any forbidden piece of Saddlery.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) all competitors must present to the Steward or gear checker e) unless otherwise specified in the schedule or on the notice board the gear check for each test will take place prior to each test d) however, in circumstances where a horse is unsettled then the combination may request to have a gear check after their test — refer also to rule 6.4.1e, 6.4.1f e) failure to have a gear check will incur elimination f) the bit inspection should not be checked until after the test unless requested by the competitor 	

Rule	Various throughout rulebook
Heading	Gear Checker
Justification	'Gear Checker' obsolete, Stewards are now compulsory at all official competitive events.
Revised Rule	
'Gear Checker' obsolete to be changed to 'steward' or 'approved representative of the steward' throughout the rulebook.	

Rule	4.8.5
Heading	Horse and Pony Identification numbers and Stallion ID at events
Justification	Clarify consequence of not complying with Stallion Identification rules
Revised Rule	
<p>4.8.5 Horse and Pony Identification numbers and Stallion ID at events</p> <p>Horse and Pony Identification numbers are compulsory for identification purposes and must be used at all times at an event so that the horse and pony 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 by the judge/s being a minimum of 3.5 - 4cm in height.</p> <p>b) the Horse or Pony 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 in black or dark coloured text, clearly displayed on a white background.</p> <p>d) green stallion identification discs or number holders must be worn by stallions at all times at an event. Non compliance will result in the issuing of a Yellow Warning Card.</p> <p>e) green stallion identification discs or number holders must be clearly displayed on both sides of the stallion’s head (attached to bridle or halter) or both sides of the saddle cloth on both sides of the breastplate: as per EA Stallion Safe Practices Policy</p> <p>f) horse and pony Identification numbers must be worn in addition to stallion discs, either as the green bridle identification number holder or the green stallion disc identification plus horse ID number</p> <p>Failure to correctly wear Horse and Pony 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 or pony does enter in the competition arena not wearing correct identification numbers, -0.50% per judge is deducted</p>	

Rule	4.10
Heading	Downgrading of horses/ponies
Justification	Clarify that downgrading for veterinary reasons will not be permitted
Revised Rule	
4.10 Downgrading of horses/ponies	
Applications for downgrading of horses/ponies for any category of competition must be directed to the relevant SDA and the following apply:	
a) applications for downgrading must be made in writing with supporting documentation	
b) an application to downgrade a horse/pony must be made or endorsed by the registered owner or lessee	
c) each request will be considered separately and, on its merit	
d) downgrading will not be considered for veterinary reasons	
e) the decision to downgrade and to what level is entirely at the discretion of the SDA	
f) downgrading may occur only once in the duration of a rider's partnership with the horse/pony	
g) downgrading may occur more than once in a horse/pony's lifetime	
h) will only apply to those graded at least Elementary level and above	
i) must not exceed a maximum of three levels (e.g. Advanced to Novice refer to rule 4.8.2 for definition of levels)	
j) 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	
k) 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	

Rule	6.4, 6.4.1, 6.4.1.1
Heading	Stewards
Justification	Implementation of the rule, requiring competitive events to have a Level 1 or higher steward appointed to the event and section reviewed.
Revised Rule	
6.4 Stewards	
A Steward is a trained, accredited EA or FEI official.	
Wherever possible an accredited Steward should be appointed to an event. As of 1 January 2024, all competitive events will be required to have a Level 1 or higher Steward appointed to the event.	
All official competitive events must have a minimum of one Level 1 Nationally accredited dressage steward or higher-level Steward appointed. For larger events the number of stewards appointed should be appropriate to the number of competition and warm up areas in use in accordance with recommendations from the appointed Chief Steward.	
If this is not possible, the OC can apply to the EADC at least 30 days prior to commencement of each event to use a National Candidate Steward, until 31 December 2024. The National Candidate Steward will then assume the duties of a Steward for that event only.	
The following categories of accredited Stewards exist:	
a) Steward General Australia Dressage	
b) FEI Stewards (levels 1,2,3 & 4) - 34 is the highest level	
c) Nationally accredited Stewards Level 1 & 2 (2 is highest)	
The following additional categories of non-accredited assistants exist	
d) National Candidate Stewards in training, not yet qualified and hold no official responsibility, may carry out all steward duties under the supervision of an accredited steward. may work as a non-accredited gear checker	
e) non-accredited gear checkers approved representative/s of the Steward (Marshals) may also be appointed to attend the gear check area at events to assist in the absence of an accredited steward or to assist the appointed	

~~steward. at larger events. Non-accredited gear checkers hold no official capacity, will not make any decisions on their own nor interpret any rules on their own. They are fully reportable to an Accredited Steward if appointed or the Head of the Ground Jury if no accredited steward is appointed.~~

- f) See rule 7.9 for Out of Pocket expenses of appointed Accredited Stewards. Refer to Annex I – Out of Pocket Expense Payments for Officials - for the current per diem

6.4.1 Steward's Responsibilities

~~Stewards are responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses is upheld, that the rules and a fair playing field for the event are adhered to and that events are conducted safely.~~

The purpose of Stewarding is:

- To protect the welfare of the horse and ensure fair play;
- To assist in making events run safely;-
- To support the Organising Committee (OC) in the successful running of the event, in line with the EA rules and regulations.

At the Gear Check Area: A trained Steward is responsible for:

- a) ensuring every consideration is given to avoid disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider
- b) checking each competitor off the draw
- c) assisting the ground jury by checking competition arenas set-up, safety, surface
- d) communicate with the organising committee
- e) guiding the rider on the legality of the saddlery, equipment and dress referred to in Section 5 and the current equipment annex
- f) checking the gear of each competitor for each test, ~~either before the test or as specified in the schedule or on the notice board such as~~ immediately after the tests is completed
- g) ensuring that if the bit/bridle is in question, ~~in which case any inspection must be done immediately after the completion of the test~~ a bit check should be undertaken, illegal bits will entail elimination by the C Judge.
 - if ~~this bit~~ inspection requires the removal of the bridle, a head collar/halter must be made available for this purpose or the horse can be taken to a safer environment such as a stable
 - any removal of equipment must be done by the rider or their agent
- ~~h) ensuring that a competitor's gear check is completed to allow sufficient time for them to proceed to the competition arena and adhere to the time draw. If a problem arises during a gear check which may cause a delay, the competitor or their agent must be requested to re-present to the gear check immediately after their test concludes~~
- h) consulting with the TD or, in their absence, ~~a member of the Ground Jury~~ the Chief Judge if doubt exists regarding any item of saddlery or other equipment
- i) having a 1.0m and a 1.2 m gauge accessible (e.g. tube, rod, tape measure, mark on fence) to ensure compliance of competitor's whip
- j) using disposable surgical/protective gloves – one new pair for each horse – if inspecting the bridle (mouth area), checking the nose band, touching horse or spurs
- ~~k) every consideration must be given to not disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider prior to them entering the competition area~~
- k) ensuring only the rider or their agent ~~may should~~ alter any equipment the gear steward must not alter any gear (unless invited to do so by the rider). If gear is too tight, loose or incorrectly fitted, the rider or their agent ~~must should~~ make the necessary adjustments
- l) it remains the ~~full~~ responsibility of the rider to comply with the equipment rules as outlined
- m) ensuring that ~~when an accredited steward has been appointed,~~ if a rider does not have their gear checked after each test they will incur elimination
- ~~n) it is the responsibility of the OC to provide preferably at least one accredited Steward for an event. A volunteer may attend the gear check if an accredited Steward is not available (see rule 6.5 e)~~
- n) ensuring that at ~~club level restricted events~~ if an accredited Steward is appointed they should advise

- and supervise the volunteer or **approved representatives of the Steward. gear-checkers**
- o) **supervising** warm-up areas
 - p) **ensuring** welfare of the horse is paramount
 - q) **the issuing** of yellow warning cards where warranted

6.4.1.1 If an accredited steward is not appointed to an event, a non-accredited gear checker may take on the following roles:

- a) ~~mark each competitor off the draw as presented to the gear check area~~
- b) ~~report to the head of the ground jury (C Judge) if a competitor does not present to the Gear Check area, as this will incur elimination~~
- c) ~~observing the gear of each competitor for each test, either before the test or as specified in the schedule or on the notice board~~
- d) ~~ensure that a competitor's leave the gear check area in sufficient time for them to proceed to the competition arena and adhere to the time draw. If a problem arises during a gear check which may cause a delay, the competitor or their agent must be requested to re-present to the gear check immediately after their test concludes~~
- e) ~~consulting with the TD or accredited Gear Steward, in their absence, the Chief Judge if doubt exist regarding any item of saddlery or other equipment~~
- f) ~~having a 1.0m and a 1.2m gauge accessible (e.g. tube, rod, tape measure, mark on fence) to ensure compliance of competitor's whip~~
- g) ~~every consideration must be given to not disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider prior to them entering the competition area~~
- h) ~~the gear checker must not alter any gear. If the gear is too tight, loose or incorrectly fitted, the rider or their agent must make the necessary adjustments Refer to Section 5 rule 5.12 for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment~~
- i) ~~the gear checker must not touch the horse or rider unless under the supervision of an Accredited Steward~~

~~Refer to Section 5 rule 5.12 for a table of allowable items of dress, saddlery and equipment~~

Rule	6.5
Heading	Chief Steward
Justification	Rewording for clarity

Revised Rule

6.5 Chief Steward

A Chief Steward is to be appointed for all Australian Championships and State Championships and is highly recommended for Regional & Official Events whereby more than one Steward is required owing to the size of the event. If only one Steward is on duty at an event, they are automatically the Chief Steward for that event. They are to be appointed from the current list of FEI accredited and Nationally accredited Stewards. See rule 7.9 for payment of appointed Chief Stewards. Refer to Annex 1 – Payments for Officials – for the current per diem

Where a TD is not appointed it is the Chief Steward who will undertake many of a TD's responsibilities. Refer further to Section 12 rule 12.30 for fuller description of role.

~~In this role they are expected to supervise competition, training and warm-up areas, stables and other areas where horses are held, ridden or treated, as well as the field of play for competition. Refer further to Section 12 rule 12.30 for fuller description of role.~~

The Chief Steward is responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses is upheld, that the rules and a fair playing field for the event are adhered to, and that the events are conducted safely. In this role they are expected to supervise competition, training and warm-up areas, stables and other areas where horses are held, ridden, or treated, as well as the field of play for competitions.

A Chief Steward is authorised to undertake any of the following duties. However, this list is not exhaustive.

- a) arrange for the gate to the grounds to be unlocked or open at least 1.5 hours before competitions begin
- b) brief stewards on their duties
- ~~e) meet judges on arrival, introduce their writers and assign to respective arenas~~
- ~~d)c) _____ ensure that test papers are being regularly collected from judges results are being regularly updated
ensure that scoresheets are updated~~
- e)d) _____ ensure that competitions are running to time
- f)e) _____ marshal winning competitors to receive awards where presentations are mounted
- g)f) _____ confirm the number of Stewards required for running the event with the OC
- h)g) _____ prepare steward rosters as necessary
- i)h) _____ ensure that arenas are correctly set-up, that surfaces are safe and well maintained to the highest standard possible
- j)i) manage stabling and warm-up areas
- k)j) _____ work with the OC to ensure the best possible outcomes for both competitors and horses
- ~~The Chief Steward is responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses is upheld, that the rules and a fair playing field for the event are adhered to and that the events are conducted safely. In this role they are expected to supervise competition, training and warm-up areas, stables and other areas where horses are held, ridden or treated, as well as the field of play for competitions.~~
- Any official is authorised to:
- l)k) _____ intervene in order to prevent any abuse of horses by riders, grooms, owners or any other person
- m)l) _____ intervene in order to prevent any contravention of the common principals of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship.

Rule	6.6
Heading	FEI Steward
Justification	Rewording for clarity
Revised Rule	
6.6 FEI Steward	
<p>An FEI Steward is to be appointed by the OC for FEI-sanctioned events, such as CDIs. The FEI Steward for these events is <u>responsible to for inviting the appropriate number of other FEI Stewards to assist in managing the event.</u> be appointed by the Dressage Steward General to ensure that all FEI Stewards are getting the opportunity to maintain their accreditation. OCs are to submit recommended names to the Dressage Steward General by the 31 August each year.</p>	

Rule	9.1 & 5.18
Heading	General Conditions (SECTION 9 YOUNG HORSE and YOUNG PONY)
Justification	To allow the use of compensating aids to be used in Young Horse Competitions.

Revised Rule

9.1 General conditions

In relation to Young Horse and Young Pony competitions the following rules apply:

- a) Athletes may use their Standard, Non-Standard, or Profile-Specific Compensating Aids (refer to DR 5.18 and Para Dressage Rules Section 3) as per the EA Compensating Aids Master List, the FEI Master List, or the Athlete's EA Exemption Card, with the exception of double bridles, which are not permitted in competition for 4-, 5- and 6-year old Young Horses and Ponies. The use of a double bridle as a compensating aid is permitted for 7-year old horses. Para-Equestrian riders are welcome to ride young horses/ponies in Young Horse competitions but the use of compensating aids is not permitted. Test calling will be permitted for riders with the appropriate exemption card
- b) birth dates for all horses and ponies will be as at 1 August. Horses and ponies must not be younger than the age group entered. e.g. 3yo not permitted in 4yo competition
- c) in principle, the YH competitions will consist of one mandatory round at qualifiers and two mandatory rounds at the State Championships and Australian Young Horse Championships
- (d)-(w) remain the same

5.18 Exemption Cards and riders with a disability

To assist riders with a disability to compete on equal terms, exemption to the EA Dressage Rules can be considered for riders who:

- are members of Equestrian Australia
- have a diagnosed disability supported by medical documentation
 - i) but who are not eligible for Para-Equestrian classification
 - ii) would be eligible for Para-Equestrian classification but do not wish to be classified for PE competition

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.

Each application will be considered by the EA Exemption Committee - Dressage comprising:

- Accredited EA Para-Equestrian Classifier(s)
- Dressage judge(s) with a knowledge of judging riders with a disability
- Appropriately qualified coach(es) with experience coaching athletes with a disability

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.

Application for Exemption forms are available from EA at

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/exemptioncards-dressage>

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.

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 11](#) for further information.

Rule	9.2(f), 9.3.1, and 9.4.4
Heading	Various - Tests to be ridden
Justification	Clarify the tests to be used for EA Young Horse competitions

Revised Rule

9.2(f) qualifying events must consist of one round and use the tests outlined in the table below:

Age	Mandatory round
4YO	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
5YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
5YO Pony	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds
6YO Pony	EA test for 6-year-old Ponies
7YO	EA Young horse test for 7-year-olds (<i>current EA Advanced 5.2 test</i>)

9.3.1 Tests to be ridden at State Young Dressage Horse Championships with two rounds

AGE	First round	Second round
4YO	EA YH commanded test for 4-year-olds	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
4YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 4-year-olds	FEI Young Horse test for 4-year-olds
5YO	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
5YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds
6YO Pony	EA YH commanded test for 6-year olds	EA test for 6-year-olds
7YO	EA YH test for 7year olds (<i>current EA Advanced 5.2 test</i>)	FEI 7-year-olds Preliminary Test

Rule	10.2
Heading	Conditions of Entry (<i>Australian Dressage Championships – Qualification Scores</i>)
Justification	Qualification Scores reviewed and amended as necessary

Revised Rule

10.2 Conditions of Entry

In regards to the Conditions of Entry for the Australia Dressage Championships the following applies:

- a) all qualifying scores must have been obtained in Official Competitive competitions
- b) horses must exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- c) the qualifying period is the 12 months immediately prior to the close of entries
- d) horses must qualify at the level they are entering with one score as follows:
 - at least one qualifying score to have been obtained by the nominated horse/rider
 - only one score from a competition with one judge to be accepted per combination
 - Novice qualifying scores – at least 70% (Pony 68%)
 - Elementary qualifying scores – at least 68% (Pony 67%)
 - Medium and Advanced qualifying scores – at least 63%
 - Prix St Georges qualifying scores – at least 63%
 - Intermediate I qualifying scores – at least 62%
 - Intermediate A or B qualifying scores – at least 60%
 - Intermediate II and Grand Prix qualifying scores – at least 60%
 - one HC result in an Official Competitive competition will count as a qualification
 - balloting will take place based on the average of the three best performances at each level
 - three performances will take precedence over two performances
 - a horse's position in the ballot will be based on the average of its qualifying percentages at each level
 - in exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given for a horse that has two high qualifying scores to be ranked above horses with three lower scores on approval by the EADC
 - Eventing Dressage is not considered as a qualification horses may only enter two consecutive levels

Rule	12.7
Heading	How to become a G level (Preliminary) dressage judge
Justification	Correction of oversight in rules and How to become a Judge booklet. Application Form correct.

Revised Rule

12.7 How to become a G level (Preliminary) dressage judge

Anyone interested in becoming an accredited judge should pursue the following procedure (FEI level riders seeking to fast-track, refer in addition, to rule 12.14):

- a) be at least 17 years of age
- b) be a current financial EA member in the appropriate category
- c) complete the application form, available from the SDA
- d) complete the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Community Officiating Principles Online Course
- e) attend an EA-approved G level judges seminar
- f) complete the G level Open Rule Book Test (ORBT) with a mark of at least 90%
- g) shadow judge one entire Preliminary and one entire Novice competitions or two entire Novice competitions with at least 10 horses in each competition with an appointed Judge Educator or Mentor
- h) undertake at least one assessed sit-in of at least 2 hours duration on an Official Preliminary or Novice competition with an approved Mentor ~~or Judge Educator or A or B level judge~~. This may be completed over more than one sit-in, sit-in assessment to be completed on each occasion
- i) complete a shadow judging form and forward to the State Judges Committee along with the assessors recommendation
- j) complete the G level ORBT and seminar before undertaking the shadow judging
- k) although not a compulsory requirement, the following questions will be asked:
 - experience as a competition rider including highest level ridden
 - details of coaches used by the applicant
 - experience as an instructor
 - number of times assisted an accredited judge as a writer (a recommended item)
 - EA approved Judges' seminars/workshops/symposium attended with details of dates and presenter(s)
 - any other relevant information

Once the G-level ORBT has been submitted to the SDA and assessed as being satisfactory, along with the required shadow judging, the applicant is accredited at G level.

Rule	Annex D
Heading	Arena familiarisation and altered circumstances at EA events
Justification	Ensure arena monitoring and safety measures are in place an official competitive events
Revised Rule	
Arena familiarisation and altered circumstances at EA events	
<p>These are guidelines for competition organisers and judges (refer also to rule 3.7). The safety of horse and rider is paramount at all times.</p> <p>Arena familiarisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where possible, allow competitors a designated time to ride around and in the competition arenas on the day of the competition, if this has not been possible on the previous day • if conditions are suitable, time may also be allocated during the day, but this will depend on the organisers and venue requirements • OCs should specify the arena familiarisation arrangements in the competition draw and also specify at what pace horses are permitted to travel. For example, Arenas will be available from 7.30 am to 8.15 am on the day of the competition for familiarisation. Please make sure that you ride only at (pace to be noted here by OC if there is a restriction) • Any arena familiarisation and warm-up areas should must be supervised by a- an accredited steward • OCs should-ensure designated first aid official/medical service providers are present once the event has officially started; this includes arena familiarisation periods. 	

Rule	F10
Heading	Gear Check
Justification	Amended due to change in Rule 4.4 (requirement to conduct gear check after completion of test)
Revised Rule	
F10.3 Gear check	
<p>Section 5 refers to the areas in which certain gear is allowable. Be familiar with these rules. Report to the gear-check area 10 to 15 minutes before your test. Gear check is required before each test. Report to the gear check area immediately after your test. Gear check is compulsory after each test ridden.</p>	

Rule	G8.3
Heading	Stewards
Justification	Amended due to change in Rule 6.4 (requirement to have an Accredited Dressage Steward at all official competitive events)
Revised Rule	
G8.3 Stewards and Gear Checkers	
<p>It is highly recommended that a Chief Steward and accredited stewards are appointed at all dressage events. It is compulsory to appoint an EA Accredited Dressage Steward for all Official Dressage events, when an event has multiple arenas in use the OC should appoint an appropriate number of Stewards to manage the event. The Chief Steward/Stewards should be named on Draws, if possible. For more information refer to rule 6.6, and a current list of accredited Stewards is available at https://www.equestrian.org.au/members/search/official. It is compulsory to appoint a Steward/s or gear checker/s for all dressage events, refer to rule 6.5.</p>	

Rule	Annex H
Heading	Categories of National dressage events and regional and major club championships
Justification	Amended due to change in Rule 6.4 (requirement to have an Accredited Dressage Steward at all official competitive events) and Appeals Committee no longer relevant.

	Regular club events including Official Competitive and Participation competitions	Regional and major Club Championships (to be defined by SDA in calendar)	State Championships	National Championships
Appeal Committee	Not compulsory	Event Chief Judge should be nominated by OC and to act as technical assistant and also to resolve judging issues if necessary. See Rule 6.1	Full Appeal Committee required. EA Dressage rule book applies	Full Appeal Committee required. See Rule 6.2.
Technical Delegate (TD)	Highly desirable but not compulsory	Highly recommended but not compulsory	TD required, appointed by SDA and reporting to SDA	TD required, appointed by EADC and reporting to EADC
National steward	<u>Compulsory for Official Competitive and desirable for other</u> Desirable	<u>Compulsory</u> Highly desirable	Compulsory	Compulsory
Gear Checker /Stewards	Compulsory as per rule book	Compulsory as per rule book	Compulsory as per rule book	Compulsory as per rule book
Warm-up arena Steward/s	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Horse Inspection	Not required	Not required	Not required	Inspection required for GP horses. As per Australian Dressage Championships rules
Calendar	Application to SDA by August each year for following year's calendar	Application to SDA by August each year for following year's calendar	Application to SDA by 1 Sept each year for following year's calendar	Application to EADC by end of February of preceding year
Draft Schedule Approval	Not required	Draft schedule to SDA 6 months prior to event highly recommended but not compulsory	Draft schedule to SDA	Draft schedule to EADC 6 months prior to event