

## MAJOR RULE CHANGES TO EFA DRESSAGE RULES EFFECTIVE FROM 1/1/08

### Metric Heights

Dressage has now converted to metric heights as follows:

- Horse must exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes
- Ponies must not exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes

14.2 hands is equivalent 147.32cm which means that there will be some horses and ponies affected by this increase in height to 149cm. Technically horses between 147.32 (old 14.2hh) and 149cm (old 14/2 5/8hh) become ponies.

So as not to disadvantage any horse, the owners of horses in this situation will have a one-off opportunity to decide whether they wish their horse to continue to compete with horses with a Dressage Performance Card – or transfer to a Pony Dressage Performance Card. If the owner decides to continue to compete as a horse then no action is required.

If an owner decides to convert their horse to a pony because it falls between the above mentioned heights, it will be necessary:

- to have a current EFA measurement which identifies that the pony does not exceed 149cm with shoes; and
- to obtain a current Pony Dressage Performance Card Both the above documents must be forwarded to the relevant EFA State Branch and be processed before the horse can compete as a pony.

A horse that transfers to a pony retains its current graded level and grading points.

This one-off decision **MUST** be made before 30 June 2008. Requests received after this date will not be considered.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PONIES

#### Pony Grading Points

#### Pony Competitions

#### Pony Measuring

Please refer to the 'Important Notices for 2008' at the beginning of the rule book as well as rules 1.12 to 1.17.

### RULE BOOK

**Note: Throughout the rule book there have been several instances where the word 'should' or 'may' have been changed to 'must'.**

## 1 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### 1.4 Eligibility of horses and ponies at each level

- **Prix St Georges** and above – to compete at this level horses must have 80 points and have on two occasions achieved 60% in Advanced judged by at least two judges
- **Grand Prix** – to compete at this level horses must have at least 80 points and have achieved 58% in Intermediate II for entry into EFA competitions and 60% for CDI events
- **FEI Pony** with at least 60 points
- **FEI Young Rider (CDI-Y)** horses with at least 80 points that have gained 60% at Prix St Georges

## 1.13 GRADING POINTS

### 1.13.1 Awarding of Grading Points

- Must have gained 58% of the total percentage in Elementary and above to gain grading points

## 1.6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1.6.1 Persons who may NOT officiate as a Judge of a Competition Any judge who is provided with private billeted accommodation with a competitor entered in the event

## 1.16 Down-Grading of Horses/Ponies

Applications for down-grading of horses/ponies for any category of competition must be directed to the SDA and the following applies:

- each request will be considered separately and on its merit
- applications for down-grading must be made in writing with supporting documentation
- the decision to down-grade is entirely at the discretion of the SDA. Down grading may occur only once in the duration of a rider's partnership with the horse/pony
- may occur more than once in a horse/pony's lifetime but not more than once in a two-year period
- will only apply to those graded at least Elementary level
- if approved, a horse/pony will be down-graded a maximum of three levels e.g. Advanced to Novice
- if graded FEI, may only be down-graded to half-way through Medium
- half the points of the new level will be allocated. E.g: Medium horse/pony downgraded to Elementary will be allocated 90 points

## 2 DRESS, SADDLERY & EQUIPMENT

### 2.1 Compulsory Dress by Level

Dress requirements are compulsory as indicated by the heading

### 2.2 Headgear

Competition attire including formal headgear is permitted in the final warm-up arena at the discretion of the OC.

Riders under 18 **MUST** wear an approved safety helmet with the retaining harness secured and fastened in ALL EFA competitions, regardless of the level or venue. Where riders under 18 compete at an FEI-sanctioned event, FEI rules for dress and saddlery will apply [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org) unless otherwise specified by the OC or venue management.

### 2.7 Coats

Wearing coats is optional in hot weather conditions, at the discretion of the OC. If a rider chooses to discard their coat, then a light-coloured shirt must be worn with a rat catcher or normal collar and long or short sleeves. T-shirts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted.

### 2.10.1 Bits

The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm and for Young Horse competitions the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 14mm.

### 2.11 Allowed at an Event/Venue

Neck straps at all levels may only be used for safety purposes

### 2.12 Not Allowed at an Event/Venue

- ear plugs
- any decoration of the horse with extravagant items such as ribbons or flowers in the tail etc is strictly forbidden. Normal plaiting of mane and tail is allowed.

## 3 DRESSAGE EVENTS

### 3.3 Timing of the Draw

It is strongly recommended to allow one hour to 90 minutes between tests for the same horse, especially at the higher levels which are more strenuous tests

### 3.5 Arena Requirements

**Must** consist of a low **continuous fence** about 0.3 metres high. (the gateway may be left open)

### 3.6 Entering the Arena

- for indoor competitions where it is not practical for the riders to ride their horses around the outside of the arena prior to entering the arena, riders must be permitted to enter the arena for a period of sixty seconds before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded and if practical, all competitors may at the discretion of the OC leave the arena before commencing their test
- for outdoor competitions if the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, then the Chief Judge in consultation with the OC, will make a decision as to whether it is permitted for that competition to allow the competitors to enter the arena and complete one lap each way prior to commencing their test. Such decision **MUST** be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition. Once the bell has been rung the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once on the centre line
- riding with the reins in both hands is compulsory in all Dressage competitions. The exceptions to this rule are:
  - ❖ leaving the arena after the final salute
  - ❖ during a Freestyle test as part of the degree of difficulty
- after bell has sounded, the competitor **must** enter the arena at A as soon as possible
- failure to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded **will entail a penalty of 2 points per judge**
- entering the arena at A before the starting signal has been given **may entail a penalty of 2 points per judge**

### 3.9 Resistance/Disobedience

Resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for a period exceeding 20 seconds shall be penalised by elimination. This does not include remounting after a fall. **However resistance that may endanger rider, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons earlier than 20 seconds. There is no appeal against this decision**

### 3.14 Execution of Tests

Where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point on track where the letters are positioned the transition must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that they horse is straight in the transition.

### 3.18 Awards and Placings

- in case of equality of percentage for any of the first three places, the higher total of the 4 collective marks will decide on the better placing. If these marks are tied, placings remain tied
- when there is equality of places from fourth place and below, the competitors are joint equal placegetters

## 4 OFFICIALS

### 4.3 Technical Delegate

A TD must be appointed for all major events which include Australian and State Championships, Regional Championships, and is highly recommended for all Official and Associate events held at club level. Travel, accommodation and out of pocket expenses will be the responsibility of the OC.

A TD must be appointed by:

- the ADC for Australian Championships
- the SDA for State Championships
- the OC for Regional Championships and club events

### 4.5 Gear Steward

Refer to the rule book. There have been several instances where the word 'should' or 'may' have been changed to must.

## 5 YOUNG HORSE

### 5.1.1 Judges

- effective from 1/1/08 all Young Horse **qualifying** competitions must have at least one NOAS-accredited Young Horse judge on the panel. Other judge(s) must be at least C level. Effective from 1/08/08 in NSW and Qld (only)
- effective from 1/1/09 all Young Horse **qualifying** competitions must be judged by NOAS-accredited Young Horse judges only
- effective from 1/1/08 the **Australian Final and State** Young Horse Championships, including the Consolation Final must be judged by NOAS accredited Young Horse judges or FEI-accredited judges
- all Judges for the **Australian final** must be accredited Young Horse Judges with the EFA or the FEI and their appointment approved by the ADC

### 5.6 Selection of Young Horses to Represent Australia Overseas

The EFA National Dressage Selectors will select the Australian representatives for the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses based on merit and with reference to; any EFA Selection Policy that may be in place, the below performance requirements, and the rules of the FEI/World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses. In particular, horses must be registered with a stud book recognised by the WBFSh.

#### 5.6.1 Young Horses domiciled in Australia

To be eligible for selection to represent Australia at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses, horses must score at least 7 for all paces (walk, trot, canter) in the final round at the Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships or at any Young Horse Qualifier in Europe.

#### 5.6.2 Young Horses not domiciled in Australia

- riders of Young Horses competing overseas must apply in writing to the EFA by 1 August of previous year if they wish to be considered to represent Australia
- riders must forward overseas results to the EFA National Office by 30 June
- the horse must have a minimum of 2 performances of at least 7.5 (75%) to be considered.

## 6 FREESTYLES

Four EFA Freestyles tests effective from February 2008 – Medium & Advanced are now separate freestyles.

Refer to the rule book. Extensive re-write of this section.

### 6.5.2 & 6.5.3 – Novice & Elementary

Any movement deliberately shown above the level and which is not included in the table of compulsory or permissible movements shall entail elimination

### 6.5.4 & 6.5.5 – Medium & Advanced

In the event of any movement being **DELIBERATELY** shown of a higher level than the corresponding test the competitor will receive '0' for the whole movement and the scores for the choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than a 5

## 7 PACES & MOVEMENTS

This is now includes the Training Scale.

This section has been updated to reflect the changes made in the FEI Rules. There are important word changes/additions/clarifications to all paces & movements.

## 8 AUSTRALIAN/STATE DRESSAGE C'SHIPS & FEI SANCTIONED EVENTS

### 8.11 State Dressage Championships, Australian and State Young Rider and Pony C'ships

For any type of Australian Championship, the draft schedule must be submitted to the ADC for approval at least six (6) months prior to the event

#### 8.11.1 State Dressage Championships

SDAs are to conduct their State Championships using the same rules as for the Australian Championships detailed above with the following exceptions:

- qualifying percentage to be at the discretion of the SDA
- at least two accredited judges are required to judge each competition

#### 8.11.2 AUS and State Young Riders Dressage Championships

Australian and State Young Riders Dressage Championships are in principle to be conducted using the same rules as for the above Australian championships with the following exceptions:

- qualifying performances to be determined by the ADC or SDA as applicable
- at least two accredited judges are required to judge each competition
- Young Rider Championships are restricted and do not attract grading points
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#### 8.11.3 AUS and State Pony Dressage Championships

Australian and State Pony Dressage Championships are in principle to be conducted using the same rules as for the above Australian championships with the following exceptions:

- qualifying performances to be determined by the ADC or SDA as applicable
- at least two accredited judges are required to judge each competition
- Pony Championships do not attract grading points if rider age is restricted

## NATIONAL OFFICIATING ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR JUDGES (NOAS)

A must read for all judges. Several changes have been made. Hopefully the use of tables at 26/27/28/29 will make it easier to read the various requirements for each level.

### 19.3 Examination Failures

- if a candidate fails the theory examination a second attempt can be done at a time negotiated with the SDA
- if a candidate fails the practical examination a second attempt can be done. The Examining Authority will contact the candidate to arrange a suitable time for this to occur
- if a candidate **passes** the theory examination and **fails** the practical judging, they are not required to re-sit the theory paper provided that the practical exam is re-sat and passed within a two-year period. However, if a new rule book is issued during this period the candidate will be required to pass an Open Rule Book examination and obtain a mark of at least 80%
- if an examiner is of the opinion that in order to upgrade the candidate needs further education through mentoring and shadow judging they will remain at their current level until such time as the further education is satisfactorily completed
- candidates who have failed a practical examination on two occasions will be required to:
  - ❖ complete a further a minimum of one year of judging
  - ❖ must attend an official EFA Judges Seminar at their existing level
  - ❖ submit sufficient proof of further shadow judging at the level they wish to upgrade to as per rules 28-29
  - ❖ submit sufficient proof of further mentoring at the level they wish to upgrade to as per rule 27

- candidates that have failed their practical examination on three occasions (under 3 different examiners and if practicable one of which is an interstate examiner) will not be eligible to apply for any further upgrades

### 26 Requirements to Remain NOAS Accredited

Must attend and participate in at least one EFA-approved seminar **at your level** at least once every 2 years.

### 27 Requirements for Upgrading

B level judges upgrading to A level must now do all shadow judging with an FEI level judge – this includes FEI C level judges.

## NOTES FOR DRESSAGE JUDGES

### 8 Allocation of Marks and Scoring

Where there is a difference of 5% or more between individual judges, it is recommended that the Chief Judge shall initiate a brief discussion between the judges preferably with sheets available where possible

### 9 Protocol for Judges Accepting Invitations to Judge

- if more than 2 hours drive to the venue the judge has the right to ask for accommodation the night before. e.g. if starting before 10.30 am, likewise if they are to finish after 6.30 pm the same should apply in reverse
- adhere to the code of conduct as well as the dress code and at least smart casual and no work jeans as matter of respect for all involved in the competition
- make yourself available to discuss test papers with individual riders and make it known to the OC when you are available so that they can announce it over the PA
- discussion about an individual horse/rider test can only take place if the rider has with them their test sheet
- apply risk management and safety principles at all times and act accordingly
- know the EFA Disciplinary By-Laws and know what action to take should it occur (i.e. rules as per abuse of horse, rider, judge etc.) [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)
- insist on the ruling of receiving a draw at the same time as the competitors in order to be aware of any conflicts so that the OC can be advised as quickly as possible. The draw must indicate the breaks and lunch break as well as comply with the 40 horse rule
- ask for a mobile number to contact on the day of competition should you be delayed (flat tyre, accident etc) on the way to the venue
- offer assistance to the OC should it be necessary prior to the competition with regards to rules and regulations re arenas, footing, risk and safety
- judges will at times be asked to judge lower levels e.g. Preparatory, Preliminary or Novice. This is really where we need our experienced judges in order to make sure that these horses and riders are put on the correct training path. Judges must therefore be prepared to judge all levels up to and including their accredited level and not only judge at the higher end of their accreditation
- judge what you see in a fair and unbiased way and avoid any personal comments such as 'have seen him go better'
- no dogs or other distractions should be permitted in Judges car

## NOTES FOR DRESSAGE EVENT ORGANISERS

A must read for anyone involved in the organisation of dressage events. There have been some changes made. Hopefully the new layout will make it easier to read.

### Task List – Draw – page 20

Where a competitor has entered 2 horses in one competition

- the draw time between the 2 horses should be approximately 45 minutes to an hour, where possible
- Under no circumstances are the horses draw times to be swapped once the draw has been completed