

**The following are proposed rule changes since 1/1/10 to become effective 1/1/11**

Rule No	Heading	Details
1.2	Welfare of the Horse	<p>Amend to read as follows from the 2011 FEI rules Book – Pages 7, 8, 9Art :</p> <p><b>FEI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE</b>  <b>This Code has been developed by the FEI and is adopted in total by EA.</b></p> <p>The FEI requires all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.</p> <p><b>1. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition Horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands.</b></p> <p><b>a) Good Horse management</b>  Stabling, feeding and training must be compatible with good Horse management and must not compromise welfare. Any practices which could cause physical or mental suffering, in or out of Competition, will not be tolerated</p> <p><b>b) Training methods</b>  Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to any training methods which are abusive or cause fear or for which they have not been properly prepared</p> <p><b>c) Farriery and tack</b>  Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury</p> <p><b>d) Transport</b>  During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent staff. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses</p> <p><b>e) Transit</b>  All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with current FEI guidelines</p> <p><b>2. Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete.</b></p> <p><b>a) Fitness and competence</b>  Participation in competition must be restricted to fit Horses and competitors of proven competence</p> <p><b>b) Health status</b>  No Horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness or other significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete or continue to compete when to do so would compromise its welfare. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt</p> <p><b>c) Doping and Medication</b>  Abuse of doping and medication is a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition</p> <p><b>d) Surgical procedures</b>  Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse's welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed</p> <p><b>e) Pregnant/recently foaled mares</b>  Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot</p> <p><b>f) Misuse of aids</b>  Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated</p> <p><b>3. Events must not prejudice Horse welfare</b></p> <p><b>a) Competition areas</b>  Horses must only be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind</p> <p><b>b) Ground surfaces</b></p>

		<p>All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injuries. Particular attention must be paid to the preparation, composition and upkeep of surfaces</p> <p><b>c) Extreme weather</b> Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the Horse may be compromised. Provision must be made for cooling Horses quickly after competing in hot or humid conditions</p> <p><b>d) Stabling at events</b> Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Clean, good quality and appropriate feed and bedding, fresh drinking water, and washing-down water must always be available</p> <p><b>e) Fitness to travel</b> After competition, a Horse must be fit to travel in accordance with the FEI's guidelines</p> <p><b>4. Every effort must be made to ensure that Horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over</b></p> <p><b>a) Veterinary treatment</b> Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must dismount and a veterinarian must check the Horse</p> <p><b>b) Referral centres</b> Wherever necessary, the Horse should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before transport</p> <p><b>c) Competition injuries</b> The incidence of injuries sustained in competition should be monitored Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries</p> <p><b>d) Euthanasia</b> If injuries are sufficiently severe the Horse may need to be euthanased by a veterinarian as soon as possible on humane grounds and with the sole aim of minimising suffering</p> <p><b>e) Retirement</b> Every effort should be made to ensure that Horses are treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from competition</p> <p><b>5. The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in their areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse</b></p> <p>This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time by the FEI and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.</p>
1.6.2	Conflict of Interest	<p>Add the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• when accepting invitations to judge, a judge must declare their interest in any person or horse who may enter that they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ trained</li> <li>➤ owned/part owned</li> <li>➤ had any other business interest</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>within the past 12 months immediately preceding the event</p>
1.8	Entry of Horses	<p>Amend the 4<sup>th</sup> dot point to read as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one rider per horse <b>for the entire</b> <del>is permitted at any event, unless in exceptional circumstances</del> <b>except for promotional competitions e.g. Derby</b></li> </ul>
1.8	Entry of Horses	<p>Add new dot points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• after the close of entries any change of rider must be notified, in writing, to the OC no later than 40 minutes prior to the start of the competition. However, a rider of a horse may not be changed if another rider has ridden the horse on the day, either in warm-up or in a competition</li> <li>• a horse cannot be changed</li> <li>• the draw position cannot be changed without the permission of the OC</li> <li>• the number of horses per competitor is at the discretion of the OC</li> </ul>

Rule No	Heading	Details
1.11	Eligibility of Young Riders, Juniors, Children & Pony riders	Change the heading to read 'Eligibility of Young Rider'  Add the following dot points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Young Rider is eligible to compete in Young Rider and Official competitions on the same horse at the same event but no more than 3 tests per day</li> <li>a Young Rider cannot compete both as a Junior and Young Rider at the same event</li> </ul>
1.12	Conditions of Entry for Official Competitions	Add the following at the bottom: It is an offence under the EA Disciplinary By-laws for a rider to compete a horse/pony below its graded level.
1.13.1	Awarding of Grading Points	<b>Amend as follows:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>grading points are awarded based on percentage only (not placing)</li> <li>grading points are only awarded from performances in <b>Official</b> competitions as follows <b>regardless of placing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Between 60% to 61.999% = 1 point</li> <li>➢ Between 62% to 63.999% = 2 points</li> <li>➢ Between 64% to 65.999% = 3 points</li> <li>➢ Between 66% to 67.999% = 4 points</li> <li>➢ Between 68% to 69.999% = 5 points</li> <li>➢ Between 70% to 71.999% = 6 points</li> <li>➢ 72% and over = 7 points</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.14	Eligibility of Horses/Ponies for each Level	<b>Small tour – Prix St Georges and Intermediate I – EA competitions:</b> To be eligible to compete in Prix St Georges/Intermediate I competitions (small tour), horses must have on two occasions achieved 60% or above in Official Advanced competitions. In the event that the competitions are held at the one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges  For FEI International events e.g. CDIs horses must have a performance of 60% or above at the respective competition level to be eligible.  <b>Big tour – Intermediate II and Grand Prix – EA competitions:</b> To be eligible to compete at Intermediate II/Grand Prix competitions (big tour), horses must have on two occasions achieved 60% or above in an Official Intermediate I competition  For FEI International events e.g. CDIs horses must have a performance of 60% or above at the respective competition level to be eligible.
1.18.2	Conditions of Entry for Associate Competitions	Amend the last dot point to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if a horse/pony is graded, it may compete at its graded level or higher or HC at a lower level</li> </ul>
1.19	Hors Concor (HC)	Amend the first dot point to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'horses/ponies may compete HC at any level'</li> </ul>
2.1.3	Advanced Level	Add a new dot point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hacking tail coat is not permitted</li> </ul>
2.1.4	PSG to GP Levels	Amend the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dot point by deleting 'or short coat with approved safety helmet'  Amend the 2 <sup>nd</sup> last dot point to add at the end 'e.g. if coat is navy blue stock may be a shade of blue'  Delete the first dot point under <b>Optional</b> that refers to short coat
2.4	Gaiters	Add as the first dot point the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gaiters may on be worn up to and including Medium</li> </ul>
2.5	Spurs	<b>Include spur diagrams in the rule book.</b>

Rule No	Heading	Details
2.6	Whip	<p>Add the following dot points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>only the athlete when riding, walking, leading or lunging a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to carry <b>one</b> whip, maximum 1.2m, anywhere on the ground</li> <li>other parties are allowed to carry <b>one</b> whip, provided it is not used in connection with the training of the horse</li> </ul>
2.10.2	Double Bridle	<p>Amend the opening para to read: A double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit <b>and curb chain (metal or leather or a combination)</b>, both fitted with a set of reins. A pelham bit is not permissible in any dressage test.</p>
2.12	Not Allowed at an Event/Venue	<p>Add as the 5<sup>th</sup> dot point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>muzzle nets</li> </ul>
2.13	Allowed in Warm-Up but NOT in competition Area	<p>Add the following to the 3<sup>rd</sup> dot point and delete the word 'rubber':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>rubber</del>-over-boots (e.g. Easy Boot/Mac boot/<b>Hoof Boot</b>)</li> </ul>
2.14	Lunging	<p>Add the following dot point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event</li> </ul>
2.16	Exemption Cards – Riders with a Disability	<p><b>Amend to read as follows:</b></p> <p>In order that any riders with a disability may compete on equal terms, an exemption scheme has been established by <del>the EA and the RDAA (Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia)</del>. <del>Exemption cards are not limited to RDAA members/riders.</del></p> <p>Application forms are available from <del>EA the RDAA</del>. A committee of three people comprising a physiotherapist, a representative of <del>the EA</del>, and an RDAA dressage representative considers each case on its merits. An EA Para-Equestrian Identification (EA PEID) <del>exemption</del> card will only be issued to genuine cases and is not meant to give the rider an advantage. <del>EA The RDAA</del> utilises the FEI Para- Equestrian rules as a guide to decision-making.</p> <p>The card does not mention the rider's disability, however, it does <b>provide OCs and Judges with information about specific exemptions from various rules.</b> <del>mention the rule number for which the rider is exempt.</del></p> <p>Once the card is issued, the rider is permitted to have alternative equipment and/or conditions as mentioned on their <del>exemption</del> <b>identification</b> card at any EA competition in Australia.</p> <p>The <del>identification exemption</del> cards are issued for: <b>to members of EA for competition/s</b> in Australia only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a maximum period of four years</li> </ul> <p>in the case of short-term injury the maximum time recommended by the appointed exemption committee</p> <p><b>Should a rider using compensating aids wish to ride at FEI level, approval is required from the ADC. FEI approval is also required prior to competing in International events.</b></p> <p>Although many conditions are permanent (e.g. loss of limb) it is not possible for a permanent exemption card to be issued because of changing rule book reference numbers. A new card may need to be issued before the 4-years expiry date when rule books are updated.</p> <p>A copy of the <del>exemption</del> <b>EA PEID</b> card must be submitted with entry to EA competitions.</p> <p>Horses of Para-Equestrian riders graded 1a, 1b or 2 are allowed to be warmed-up by a coach or another rider for 20 minutes, but not in the 15 minutes prior to competing.</p> <p><b>Grade 1a, 1b, 2 and 3 compete in a 20 x 40m arena. Grade 4 riders compete in a 60 x 20, arena or 20 x 40m arena. Details can be found on the tests.</b></p>

Rule No	Heading	Details
3.8	Dismounting	Amend the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dot point to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any fall of the horse and/or rider will entail elimination from that competition</li> </ul> Delete the 4 <sup>th</sup> dot point
3.10	Resistance & Disobedience	Amend the last dot point to read as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a horse leaving the arena with all four feet during a test between the <b>beginning and the end of the test</b> <del>time of entry and the time of exit at A</del> will be eliminated</li> </ul>
3.17	Errors of Course	Add directly under the heading the words 'Note – Errors of course are to be deducted from the test sheet of each judge.'
3.19	Awards & Placings	Amend the 4 <sup>th</sup> dot point to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in case of equality of percentage for any of the first three places, the higher total of the 4 collective marks <b>including coefficients</b> will decide on the better placing. If these marks are tied, placings remain tied</li> </ul> Amend the 6 <sup>th</sup> dot point, 1 <sup>st</sup> star – add the words <b>including coefficients</b> after the word 'marks'
5.1	General Conditions	Add the following dot points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in all Young Horse tests the trot is to be executed sitting unless specified rising</li> <li>tests may not be called except for the commanded tests</li> </ul>
5.6.1	Selection of Young Horses to Represent Australia Overseas	For Young horses to be considered for endorsement to the World Young Horse Championships they must have a minimum of 2 performances of at least 7.5 with at least 7 for all paces.  For Australian based horses one of these scores must be achieved in the final round of the Australian YH Championships and for horses not domiciled in Australia at least one performance must be from an official YH qualifier.  Competition results including the judging sheets must be forwarded to the EA office as proof of performances
6.5.2	Novice	Add the following dot point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the entry must be at walk or trot</li> </ul>
6.5.3	Elementary	Add the following dot point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the entry must be at walk or trot</li> </ul>
6.5.4	Medium	Add the following dot point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the entry must be at walk or trot</li> </ul>
6.8	Compulsory & Permitted Movements for Freestyles	Correct the typo in the Advanced compulsory column as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flying change every 4<sup>th</sup> stride – max 3</li> <li>Flying change every 3<sup>rd</sup> stride – max 3</li> <li>Half Pass left &amp; right – delete reference to 3 max – just a tick</li> </ul>
6.8	Compulsory & Permitted Movements for Freestyles	Clarification - The changes made from 1/1/10 in relation to the Half turn on the haunches for Elementary, Medium and Advanced are all permitted movements and are not compulsory Advanced - Counter change of hand (trot & canter)– 1 only permitted (as per 6.5.5)
8.2	Conditions of Entry	Add a new dot point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 ADC</li> </ul>
8.5	Other Requirements	Amend the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dot point by inserting the following words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two places in each competition (<b>excluding Freestyles</b>) are reserved at the Australian Championships for the highest qualified combinations from each State provided that the horse/rider have been approved/nominated by the State Branch</li> </ul>
8.8	Horse Inspection & Swabbing	Amend 2 <sup>nd</sup> dot point by deleting the words 'Intermediate II and'

Rule No	Heading	Details
8.11.1 8.11.3	State Dressage Championships	Add a new dot points as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW, QLD &amp; VIC Championships must have a minimum of 2 interstate judges on the judging panel</li> <li>NT, TAS, SA, WA Championships it is strongly recommended that there be a minimum of 2 interstate judges on the judging panel</li> <li>reserving 2 places in each competition for the highest qualified combinations from each state is at the discretion of the SDA</li> </ul>
8.11.,2	Australian & Stated Young Rider Championships	Add a new dot points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian YR Championships - two places in each competition are to be reserved for the highest qualified combinations from each state</li> <li>State YR Championships - reserving 2 places in each competition for the highest qualified combinations from each state is at the discretion of the SDA</li> </ul>
8.12 to 8.16	PSG Challenge	Delete 8.12 to 8.16.
8.12	PSG Challenge	<p><b>Add the following new process:</b></p> <p><b>PRIX ST GEORGES CHALLENGE</b></p> <p>The PSG challenge is promotional competition to show case our up and coming FEI horses. The PSG Challenge Final will be held in conjunction with the Australian Dressage Championships each year</p> <p><b>8.12 – Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>horse must be registered with EA and hold a current performance card</li> <li>riders and owners must be financial members of the EFA</li> <li>horses must exceed 149cm with shoes or 148cm without shoes</li> <li>horses may enter qualifying competitions once they have turned 7 years of age (1 August for Southern Hemisphere horses, 1 January for Northern Hemisphere horses)</li> <li>horses must be 10 years or under during the qualifying period</li> <li>all Official PSG competitions are considered to be qualifying competitions wherever held in Australia providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are at least 2 judges, one of whom must be an A level judge</li> <li>it is recommended that there be 3 judges where possible</li> <li>if 3 judges then at least one must be A level or above, the other two may be B level</li> </ul> </li> <li>the qualifying period is from the closing date of entries for the Australian Dressage Championships up to and including the next closing date of entries for the Australian Dressage Championships (e.g. 16/9/10 to 15/9/11)</li> <li>riders will be required to nominate for the PSG Challenge Final at the time of entering the Australian Dressage Championships</li> <li>horses must qualify by submitting 3 qualifying scores of 60% or better gained during the qualifying period</li> <li>the 12 highest ranked horses will be eligible to compete in the Final</li> <li>the Ground Jury of the Final: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may consist of 5 or 3 members</li> <li>must include at least two foreign FEI judges from different countries</li> <li>other members of the Ground Jury must be at least A level</li> </ul> </li> <li>at their discretion the Selectors, with ADC approval, may invite a maximum of two Wild Card entries to also compete in the Final</li> </ul>
8.20.2	Rider Qualification	Amend the first dot point to read as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to gain support from EA in requesting entries for Grand Prix competitions at CDIs overseas, riders are required to produce proof of recently gaining 60% in <b>two Grand Prix Tests</b> in National competitions (in Australia or overseas)</li> </ul>
8.20.2	Rider Qualification	Add as the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dot point the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To gain endorsement for CDI5* competitions, riders are required to produce proof of gaining at least 62% (in the Grand Prix) at two CDI competitions</li> </ul>

Rule No	Heading	Details
8.20.2	Rider Qualification	Add as the 3rd dot point the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Young Riders, Juniors or Ponies to gain support from EA to compete at CDIs overseas riders are required to produce proof of recently gaining at least 60% or better in two National competitions (in Australia or overseas) at the level they wish to compete at the CDI</li> </ul>

**NOAS – This is now Section 10 and all rule numbers are now prefixed with 10**

**As this whole section has been reviewed it is suggested that the whole section be printed.**

Rule No	Heading	Details
9.10.1 9.12.1	Judge Educators Shadow Judging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Judge Educators and Mentors are to be appointed by the ADJC on recommendation from the SDA</li> </ul>
9.16.1	General Conditions to maintain accreditation	Add to the 4 <sup>th</sup> dot point 'Inter Schools'
9.18	Limitation of Time	To be amended to read as follows: <b>18 Limitation of Time</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>except for re-sitting a failed practical examination all of the requirements for upgrading have a tenure of <b>two years</b>. This includes shadow judging, <b>seminar attendance, theory and practical exams</b></li> </ul> Exceptional circumstances may be considered on application in writing to the SDA.
9.19.1	Upgrading Criteria	Add the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in principle all theory exam papers are to be completed at least 2 months prior to the practical exam</li> </ul>
9.26	Requirement to Remain NOAS Accredited	Add to the table 'Completed over a 2 year period' the following at the end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dot point - (refer to 16.1)
9.26	Requirement to Remain NOAS Accredited	Amend by reinserting the following Updating Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Maintain accreditation as an EA NCAS accredited General or Dressage Coach</li> <li>➢ Actively assist in the administration of the EA officiating program (<b>National, State Dressage Authorities, Judges C'tee etc – attend committee meetings, assessments and seminars</b>)</li> </ul>
9.28	Examination Requirements	Amend NOAS 28 – Minimum number of horses for practical exam to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*E - Elementary – 15</li> <li>*D - Medium – 10 (more is better)</li> <li>*C - Advanced 10 (more is better)</li> <li>B - Int I – 15 (must not be less)</li> <li>A - GP – 15 (must not be less)</li> </ul> *Note – it is recognised at times it may not be possible to have this many horses. In such cases it is suggested that the candidate also judge another Medium or Advanced as the case may be on the same day under exam conditions or try to get additional horses to ride HC.
9.30	Payment to Judge Educators	Amend the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dot point re practical exams - increase the amount to \$50 per candidate where the OC provides all results on a spread sheet or \$50 per hour per candidate where it is a manual process performed by the Examining Judge.

**Notes for Judges – this is now Section 10 and all rule number are prefixed with 10**

Rule No	Heading	Details
10.8	Protocol for Judges Accepting Invitations to Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when accepting invitations to judge, a judge must declare their interest in any person or horse who may enter that they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ trained</li> <li>➢ owned/part owned</li> <li>➢ had any other business interest</li> </ul> </li> </ul> within the past 12 months immediately preceding the event

**Notes for Competitors – this is now Section 11 and all rule number are prefixed with 11**

Rule No	Heading	Details
10	Warm-Up	Add the FEI Hyperflexion Guidelines & Diagrams (see attached)

**Notes for OCs this is now Section 12 and all rule numbers are prefixed with 12**  
**This whole section has been reformatted to make it easier for OCs to read and understand.**

Rule No	Heading	Details
1	General Considerations	<p>Add the following dot point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OCs are to be aware of any legislation within their state in relation child Protection. National, State and Territory sports organisations have developed child protection guidelines. These guidelines can help you put policies in place to protect your club and your members. For additional information on required checks for people working with juniors, please contact your State or Territory department of Sport and Recreation - <a href="http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/clubs/resource_library/starting_a_club/child_protection">http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/clubs/resource_library/starting_a_club/child_protection</a></li></ul>

## Section 11 - Annex 1 FEI Hyperflexion Guidelines

May 12, 2010

New illustrated guidelines have been produced by the FEI showing permitted positions of the horse's head and neck during pre and post-competition training.

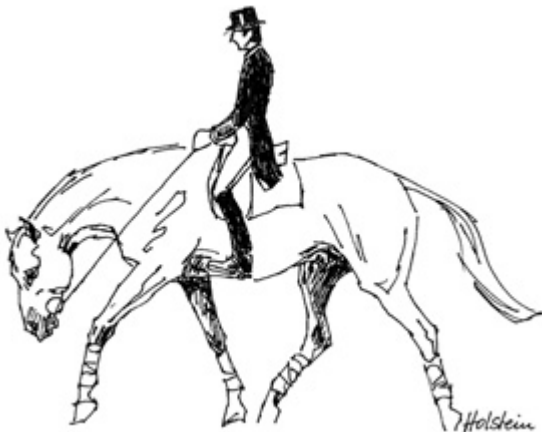
**Long, deep and round:**



**Low, deep and round:**



**Long and low:**



The diagrams were produced by an FEI Working Group as part of a new Annex (XIII) for the revised FEI Stewards Manual on warm-up techniques.

One of the key stipulations in the Working Group's report was that all unacceptable training methods and techniques must be stopped immediately. The Working Group was also insistent that abuse of the horse must be avoided and, in particular, stressing the horse, aggressive riding and inflicting pain and/or discomfort on the horse must be prevented.

"The current FEI Stewards Manual already includes instructions covering aggressive riding, but the new Annex (XIII) has clear instructions on action to be taken if necessary relating to flexion of the horse's neck during pre and post-competition training," the FEI said.

"Any head and neck position obtained through the use of aggressive force is not acceptable."

Movements which involve having the horse's head and neck carriage in a sustained or fixed position should be performed only for periods not exceeding about 10 minutes without change.

Deliberate extreme flexions of the neck involving either high, low or lateral head carriages, should be performed only for very short periods. If these deliberate extreme flexions are performed for longer periods the Steward can intervene.

It is the Steward's responsibility to ensure that riders respect these procedures.

"Used in conjunction with the new Stewards Manual, these illustrations now provide the Stewards with the final piece in the jigsaw that will allow them to do their job more effectively, ensuring that horse welfare is maintained at all times", Working Group Chair Frank Kemperman said. The diagrams show examples of acceptable head and neck positions.

The illustrated FEI Stewards Manual Dressage has been sent to all National Federations, which have been instructed to immediately forward it to all stewards for implementation from May 15.

Dressage will be the first discipline to use the new Stewards Manual, with the other FEI disciplines currently reviewing their individual requirements.

The Guidelines, which were produced by the Working Group formed after the round-table conference held in Lausanne on 9 February 2010, were approved at the FEI Bureau meeting in Geneva on 15 April 2010.

The Working Group was made up of Dressage Committee Chair Frank Kemperman (Chairman), Richard Davison (GBR), Rider/Trainer; John P. Roche (IRL), FEI Director Jumping/Stewarding; Jacques Van Daele (BEL), FEI

Honorary Dressage Steward General/Judge; Wolfram Wittig (GER), Trainer; and Trond Asmyr (NOR), FEI Dressage and Para Equestrian Dressage Director/Judge. Input was also received from Dr Gerd Heuschmann and Sjef Janssen and from the FEI Jumping Committee.