



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Summary of Rule Changes
(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
Page 7	PREAMBLE	Missing from current rules	Add back to preamble: These Rules & Regulations cannot be used either in principle, in whole, or in part for the judging of Competition unless the Organising Committee or body is affiliated to Equestrian Australia.
1.3	Abuse of the horse	Aligning with FEI Rule direction	j) It is strictly forbidden to use any type of substance/product inside or around the Horse's mouth and/or tongue that may (i) imitate, induce or cause foaming ; and/or (ii) coat or otherwise cover , or partially cover the bit . The prohibition excludes the use of products permitted in the FEI Tack App and the provision of permitted natural treats given in moderation. Contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.
1.3.1	General Conditions - Reporting of Abuse	Clarification for the procedures for reporting abuse.	1.3.1 Reporting of Abuse Anyone witnessing an incident of abuse must report it in writing the form of a written protest (see EA General Regulations Article 163) in confidence to the OC immediately who will refer the matter without delay to officials at the event with the appropriate time and authority to deal with it or, if such officials are not available, 14 days to the State CEO Branch authority to initiate action. Competitors are alerted to the fact that, as well as FEI and EA General Regulation 142, cruel application of spurs, whips or bits is illegal in some Australian states and territories.
1.8.2 c)	People may not officiate as a judge of a competition if	Clarification	Proposed Wording: c) they have given or ridden in a riding clinic within 2 weeks prior to the event and a rider, coach or horse who has participated in that clinic will be in the competition
1.9	General Conditions - Minimum Medical Requirements	Health & Safety Update	As per EA Health and Safety Minimum Medical Requirements Policy.
3.7 e)	Entering the arena	For consistency with FEI rules	e) After the sound of the bell, the Athlete must enter the arena at A within forty five (45) seconds. After the bell has sounded, the competitor must enter the arena at A as soon as possible



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(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

3.14	Called tests	Updated conditions for test callers	3.14 Called Tests d) headsets are not permitted
4.6	Types of competitions at Official events	Increase level of participation to include Elementary	The following types of competitions may be held at any Official event conducted by an EA affiliated body: a) Official Competitive competitions using current official EA tests from Preliminary to Grand Prix, including Freestyle tests and Young Horse tests. Competitions may be limited to rider age groupings (e.g. Juniors, Young Riders) or to ponies or AOR riders only. b) Participation competitions using EA tests from Preparatory to Novice Elementary level (including Freestyles) c) In addition, EA Para Dressage tests and FEI Para-Equestrian-level tests may be used in participation competitions (including Freestyles). See Section 11 Para-Equestrian dressage rules for further details on Para dressage.
4.7	Types of competitions at Restricted Events	Clarify of the requirements for Closed events	4.7 Types of competitions at Closed Restricted events Clubs affiliated with their EA State Branch may hold restricted events and training activities : a) Closed restricted (CR) competitions are open to the conducting club's members only may include any level of EA test from Preparatory to Grand Prix and Para-Equestrian. b) Closed un-restricted (CUR) competitions are open to may also include club CUR competitions club members and invited EA members (i.e. riders who are not members of the host club). CUR competitions to a maximum level of Elementary Participation competition up to and including the current Novice tests and all Para-Equestrian tests c) EA Dressage Rules apply to these events as per General Regulations Art 100 d) horse registration refer 4.8. e) restricted competitions can only be conducted by current EA Club Affiliates d) closed events do not require approval from the State Dressage Authority and may be conducted at any time in conjunction with any other type (e.g. Official Competitive) e) appointment of judges is at the club's discretion, however accredited judges are encouraged f) All closed events do not attract grading points g) Saddlery & Equipment as per EA Dressage rules h) appointment of an accredited steward is encouraged i) First aid minimum medical requirements, as per EA general regulations & policies. Refer 4.8 for more details

Commented [JE1]: This part of the sentence is confusing....maybe state "Closed un-restricted (CUR) competitions **are open to** club emembers and invited EA members....."



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<u>Move 4.11 to 4.8.2</u>	Conditions of Entry for Participation Competitions	Better flow of rules	4.11 4.8.2 Conditions of Entry for Participation Competitions <i>For riders wishing to compete in Participation level competitions:</i> a) refer to the EA General Regulation for membership requirements b) the minimum age for riders on ponies is from the start of the year in which they turn 8 and on horses from the start of the year in which they turn 10 c) one rider per horse is permitted at any event d) please refer to your state authority in relation to state-specific membership requirements e) refer to the EA General Regulations for any horse/pony registration requirements f) there is no restriction on the height of the horse/pony g) if a horse/pony is graded, it may only compete at its graded level or higher, or HC at a lower level h) a horse/pony may only be entered and compete once in each competition i) grading points are not accrued or recorded j) Participation results are not eligible for qualifying for state/national championships
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4.8.3.2	Eligibility of horses, ponies and combinations for each level	Clarification of conditions for exemptions at FEI level	<table><tr><td>Prix St Georges , Intermediate I or Young Rider tests #</td><td>Combinations must have achieved 60% or above on two (2) occasions in Official Advanced competitions to be eligible to compete PSG/ Intermediate I or FEI Young Rider tests. <u>In the event that the qualifying competitions are held at the one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges</u></td></tr><tr><td>Intermediate A and B OR Intermediate II/U25 Intermediate II #</td><td>Combinations must have gained at least 60% or above on two (2) occasions in an Official Intermediate I competition to compete in Intermediate A and B or Intermediate II/U25 Intermediate II. <u>In the event that these scores are achieved at one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges</u></td></tr><tr><td>EA Grand Prix, including U25 Grand Prix #</td><td>Combinations must have gained at least 60% or above on two (2) occasions in Official Intermediate A/B or Intermediate II competitions to be eligible to compete at Grand Prix and U25 Grand Prix.</td></tr><tr><td>FEI National Competitions #</td><td>Under exceptional circumstances, High Performance riders on suitably experienced horses may apply to the EADC to waive qualification scores.</td></tr></table> * Riders/owners please note – minimum requirements to ensure standard of the event. There is no upper limit to the grading of the horse/pony. Children/Junior/Youth/Pony tests are judged based on the capability and skill of the rider and harmonious presentation of the test. (*Please refer to the FEI website: https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/dressage/tests) # For a new combination where the horse is graded FEI, the combination will be exempt from the requirement to compete in two tests at Advanced level before competing at either Prix-St-Georges, Intermediate I, or Young Rider (Small Tour) Level. # For a new combination where the horse is graded FEI, the following applies: The new combination will be exempt from the prerequisites to compete at the desired FEI level (Small Tour, Medium Tour, Big Tour) if the horse and rider each has two performances of 60% or higher at the respective level or higher in the previous two (2)-year period.	Prix St Georges , Intermediate I or Young Rider tests #	Combinations must have achieved 60% or above on two (2) occasions in Official Advanced competitions to be eligible to compete PSG/ Intermediate I or FEI Young Rider tests. <u>In the event that the qualifying competitions are held at the one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges</u>	Intermediate A and B OR Intermediate II/U25 Intermediate II #	Combinations must have gained at least 60% or above on two (2) occasions in an Official Intermediate I competition to compete in Intermediate A and B or Intermediate II/U25 Intermediate II. <u>In the event that these scores are achieved at one event, they must be judged by a different panel of judges</u>	EA Grand Prix, including U25 Grand Prix #	Combinations must have gained at least 60% or above on two (2) occasions in Official Intermediate A/B or Intermediate II competitions to be eligible to compete at Grand Prix and U25 Grand Prix.	FEI National Competitions #	Under exceptional circumstances, High Performance riders on suitably experienced horses may apply to the EADC to waive qualification scores.
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4.9	Upgrading Points	Clarification	Rule 4.9 d) Horses/ponies that gain 40 upgrading points at levels higher than their current grading will be upgraded to the next consecutive level. The exception is a horse/pony needs at least 30 upgrading points to upgrade from Advanced to FEI. Refer 4.8.3.2 table for more details For upgrades up to and including Medium level, a horse or pony must gain 40 upgrading points in levels higher than their current grading, to be graded at the next consecutive level (e.g. if a horse currently graded Preliminary/Novice, competes Elementary, Medium or above and gains 40 grading points at these higher levels								



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Summary of Rule Changes
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			the horse is then upgraded to Elementary). A horse/pony needs at least 30 upgrading points to upgrade from Medium to Advanced. Rule 4.9 (e) delete. A horse/pony can only be upgraded one level at a time.												
5.8 (g) and Table 5.1.1	Jackets and coats and Dress per level table	Clarification to rule 5.8 (g) and correction to Table 5.1.1	Rule 5.8 g) for all EA levels and non-CDI FEI levels, wearing a coat is optional if the rider feels overheated Table 5.1.1 Dress per level table <table><tr><th></th><th>Hat</th><th>Coat</th></tr><tr><td>Up to Medium level</td><td>Safety helmet as in 5.2</td><td>Short coat as per 5.8 Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.</td></tr><tr><td>Advanced level</td><td></td><td>Short coat or tailcoat as per 5.8 Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.</td></tr><tr><td>FEI Levels Prix St Georges – Grand Prix</td><td></td><td>Short coat or tailcoat, - colour as per FEI rules see 5.8 For non-CDI competitions Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.</td></tr></table>		Hat	Coat	Up to Medium level	Safety helmet as in 5.2	Short coat as per 5.8 Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.	Advanced level		Short coat or tailcoat as per 5.8 Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.	FEI Levels Prix St Georges – Grand Prix		Short coat or tailcoat, - colour as per FEI rules see 5.8 For non-CDI competitions Riders may ride without jackets if feeling overheated.
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					See FEI rules for CDI competitions regarding wearing of jackets.									
5.10	Saddles and saddlecloths	Change Side Saddle to Participation classes only	b) In Participation events ONLY, a jumping saddle and English style side saddles are permitted c) In Participation events ONLY, a jumping saddle is permitted English style side saddles are permitted											
5.12	Table of equipment permitted/not permitted	Update on electronic communication devices	Electronic communication devices, including mobile phones, are not permitted while riders are in the competition arena <table><tr><td>Earphones (one ear only) or similar devices</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Electronic communication devices, including mobile phones, are not permitted while horse and rider are in the competition arena</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr></table>				Earphones (one ear only) or similar devices		X		Electronic communication devices, including mobile phones, are not permitted while horse and rider are in the competition arena		X	
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5.16	Over-boots/Hoof boots	Clarification	c) glued-on shoes are permitted cannot cover any more of the hoof than but the hoof must remain visible where nails would normally be visible, and shoes be made of clear material. so the hoof is visible, and t The bulbs of the heel and full circumference of coronary band must be clearly visible											
5.18	Exemption Cards and riders with a disability	Updated conditions for test callers	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. Test calling in young Horse competitions will be permitted for riders with the appropriate exemption card. If caller/commander exemptions are granted, no headset will be permitted. 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											



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Summary of Rule Changes
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5.19	Gear Check List	Update on electronic communication devices	5.19 - Additional Gear - Running martingale, bandages, brushing boots, over-boots, double bridle (Medium level and above), saddle covers, earphones (one ear only) and electronic communication devices (e.g. mobile phones) – Warm-up area only
10.1 a)	Australian Dressage Championships - Administration	Change from 6 months to 4 months as per EADC	a) a draft schedule must be submitted to the EADC for approval at least four (4) 6 months prior to the event
10.2 d)	Conditions of entry	Revision of qualifying scores	d) Novice qualifying scores – at least 68%, (Pony 67% 66%) Elementary qualifying scores – at least 65% (Pony 65% 64%)
10.12.1 a)	Other Australian Championships	Change from 6 months to 4 months as per EADC	a) the draft schedule is to be forwarded to the EADC for approval at least four (4) six months prior to the event
Section 12 – 12.8.1 b), c), & d)	General conditions to maintain accreditation current	As per EADOC recommendations	12.8.1 Compulsory conditions to maintain accreditation These requirements are compulsory and are to be achieved over a period of 3 years: a) attend a seminar at least every 3 years at their level as per rule 12.18 (NOTE: F-level judges may attend a G-level seminar, and G-level judges may attend an F/E level seminar to maintain their accreditation) b) each seminar will consist of three (3) parts: 1. Theory session – (This can be via an online platform in a separate session or face-to-face in a one-day seminar) 2. Practical session – must be face to face (either at a competition or stand-alone specific event) 3. Obtaining 80% pass in relevant module Quiz (generated certificate to be sent to seminar coordinator). NOTE: The certificate can be used again at any subsequent seminars within the three (3) year accreditation cycle as an RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) for the module c) The same Judge Educator must present both theory and practical if theory is conducted via online platform.

Commented [JE2]: I assume the EADC has agreed this should be 63% and not 64%?

Commented [JE3]: What is an RPL?

Commented [CC4R3]: (Recognition of Prior Learning)



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(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

			d) All parts must be attended/completed to receive a certificate for accreditation																																
12.8.1 d) & e)		As per EADOC recommendations	d) For F level to A level judges (Judge 12 competitions total excluding freestyles):- i. Judge 6 Official Competitive competitions at their judging level, i.e. F at Novice, E at Elementary, D at Medium, C – at Advanced, B at PSG or Inter I, A at Inter A to GP. (for F level and E level judges only, Interschool, Eventing (providing the EA Eventing Officials judges table is used– Chapter 4, EA Eventing rules) or Official Participation competitions can be counted – 2 in total. ii. Judge 6 other competitions at any level up to their highest level (these can be Official Competitive, Official Participation, Restricted Participation, Young Rider, Pony, AHRC, Eventing or Interschool (providing the Officials judges table is used) e) G level judges only:- Judge 6 competitions total – Includes Official Preliminary, Official Participation / Restricted Club events , Interschool and Eventing (providing the EA Eventing Officials judges table is used – Chapter 4, EA Eventing rules).																																
Section 12	12.9	Requirements for judges to remain accredited	<table><tr><th>Current level</th><th>G</th><th>F</th><th>E</th><th>D</th><th>C</th><th>B</th><th>A</th></tr><tr><td colspan="8">Compulsory every 3 years</td></tr><tr><td>Judges Reaccreditation form to be completed <u>at</u> 1st April every third year with proof of completed and marked ORBT at 90% or higher.</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Must attend and participate/ complete all 3 components of at least one (1) EA-approved <u>judges</u> seminar at your level at least every 3 years (F level may use a G-level seminar for this purpose and G level can use an F/E seminar for this purpose).</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr></table>	Current level	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	Compulsory every 3 years								Judges Reaccreditation form to be completed <u>at</u> 1st April every third year with proof of completed and marked ORBT at 90% or higher.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Must attend and participate/ complete all 3 components of at least one (1) EA-approved <u>judges</u> seminar at your level at least every 3 years (F level may use a G-level seminar for this purpose and G level can use an F/E seminar for this purpose).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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			Completed over the 3-year-period F to A Judges	G	F	E	D	C	B	A
			Minimum Judging Requirements, excluding Freestyles (Judge 12 competitions total): Judge 6 Official competitions at your accredited level: • F at Novice • <u>E</u> at Elementary • D at Medium • C at Advanced • B at PSG or Inter I • A at Inter A to GP (may substitute a S at GP or Inter II) Young Horse - judge at least 1 YH competition <u>PLUS</u> judge 6 other competitions up to and including your level (refer to rule 12.8.1d) & e)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12.17	Shadow judging and assessed sit-ins	As per EADOC recommendations	e) shadow judging and sit-ins may be done at the same event. If the same Judge Educator/Mentor is used the shadow judging must be done before the assessed sit-in. However, if different Judge Educators/Mentors are used then there is no restriction on what is done first f) National judges are not permitted to sit in on the field of play at a CDI for a sit in or Shadow judge. They may do a sit in or shadow judge with a National FEI judge outside the field of play (on the sidelines) g) h in principle, the requirements for sit-ins could be met at a single event providing two different Judge Educators/Mentors are used h) g rule 12.11 details the entire number of competitions required for shadow judging and the requirement for assessed sit-ins i) h for privacy of competitors, shadow judging test sheets are to be destroyed once they have been discussed by the candidate and supervising judge j) i it is the responsibility of the Judge Educator/Mentor to give honest assessment of the candidate's progress in preparation for the practical examination k) j shadow judging must be with 2 different judge educators/mentors l) k details of shadow judging payment to Judge Educators and Mentors can be found in Annex I (see main rulebook)							



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(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

Section 12 - 12.17.2	Appointment of Mentors	As per EADOC recommendations	12.17.2 b) SDAs may invite suitably qualified A, B, C or D level judges. Existing D level judges shall maintain their accreditation as a Mentor
Section 12 - Section 12.13.3	EA Dressage Judges and Steward in Australia - Training of Para Equestrian Judge Educators	Correction	a) be an accredited A level judge, an EA Judge Educator and/OR an FEI accredited Para-Equestrian Judge



Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee – Summary of Rule Changes
(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

Annex E		Update	Annex E: 5.12, 5.16, 5.17 Permitted in warm-up and exercise area but NOT into competition area – running martingale (with snaffle bridle), removable over boots (Easy Boot, Hoof Boot, Mac Boot), saddle covers, earphones (one ear only), – or similar devices, electronic communication devices (e.g. mobile phones)
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