

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

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
1.6.1.1	Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card A Recorded Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible for the following:	Update to align with <i>current EA Dressage rules (art 1.6.2)</i>	<i>(new section)</i> 1.6.1.1 A Recorded Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible for the following: a) failure to wear an EA-approved tagged helmet* b) inappropriate or undesirable behaviour by an athlete and/or their entourage towards an official or volunteer *Riders with a non-compliant helmet and no EA helmet tag (see Section 5.2) will be given a Recorded Warning Card and eliminated; riders with a compliant helmet (see Section 5.2) but no tag will be given a Recorded Warning Card but allowed to compete
	MMR	Health & Safety Rule change	Wording TBA from EA H&S team

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1.6.2	An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is any of the following:	Update	<p>1.6.2 An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an FEI or National-accredited Steward • an EA Technical Delegate – (generally not applicable for PD classes) • an FEI-accredited Judge • an EA National Judge Educator • an EA-accredited A- or B-level Judge <p>* An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card only when officiating at an Event with the exception of reports of horse abuse at the Event where officials with the necessary authority are not present at the event. In these cases the State CEO together with an official from the list above will decide the case and if warranted the Yellow Warning Card will be issued by that Official.</p> <p>They can be hand-delivered or issued by any other suitable means and will state the reason for the warning.</p> <p>For Recorded Warnings only: if none of these persons are present at an Event, the Organising Committee will designate the President of the Ground Jury (see 7.1) to have authority to issue the Recorded Warning, if required.</p> <p>An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card only when officiating at an Event. They can be given either by hand or any other suitable means and will state the reason for the Yellow Warning Card.</p> <p>The Official who awards the Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card must notify the Person Responsible, the Ground Jury where applicable and the CEO of the State Branch where the incident occurred of the Yellow Warning Card as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is to be delivered personally during the Period of the Event. If after reasonable efforts the Person Responsible cannot be notified during the Period of the Event that they have received a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card, the Person Responsible must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event. A Yellow Warning Card may be issued in addition to any other sanction(s) that may be issued in accordance with the EA General Regulations and/or the relevant Sport Rules.</p>
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1.6.3	Parent/Guardian to be present	Update	<p>1.6.3 Parent/Guardian/Support Person to be present.</p> <p>A Parent/Guardian is required to be present when an Athlete under the age of 18 is issued with the Yellow or Recorded Warning Card. It is recommended to have a support person present when an athlete is issued with the Yellow or Recorded Warning Card where communication assistance is required.</p>
3.14.1	Bridles	Correction to align with FEI Rules	<p>n) Where ladder reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of three four soft rungs loops per rein. Where Looped reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside the loops</p>
3.7.2	Jackets and coats	To align with new FEI Para Dressage rules (FEI Article 8427.9 – Dress)	<p>g) A white coloured Arm Band, provided by the Athlete, in a distinctive colour (red recommended) must be worn at at all times by Athletes with a classified visual impairment, while mounted outside of at the Competition (Field of Play).</p> <p>h) A light blue coloured Arm Band, provided by the Athlete must be worn at all times by Athletes with a classified hearing impairment, while mounted outside of Competition (Field of Play). Note: recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027</p> <p>i) h) Where trainers are mounted on grade I, II and III horses, they must wear a an yellow armband stating 'Trainer' whenever mounted on a para dressage horse. Note: yellow armband recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027</p>

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3.11	Spurs	Alignment with FEI rules	<p>3.11 Spurs</p> <p>Athletes please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) spurs may be worn by all competitors as a standard compensating aid b) spurs must be identical on both sides, i.e., they must be a pair, unless allowed as a non-standard compensating aid and noted on the Master List, c) spurs must be made of metal d) metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs ('Impulsi' spurs) or 'Dummy' spurs with no shank are permitted e) a curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the Athlete's boot; rowels also must point directly back from the centre of the spur. f) Spurs must not be offset, unless allowed as a non-standard compensating aid and noted on the Master List. g) the tip of the shank must not point up or point inwards. Swan neck spurs are permitted h) the arms of the spur must be smooth and blunt i) if disc rowels are used, they must be blunt & smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Daisy rowels, tines, notched, serrated edges are not permitted j) disc rowels may be in a vertical or horizontal plane k) soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane are permitted l) pony Athletes, (regardless of age), may only wear spurs that are no longer than 4.0 cm. The length of the spur is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur m) there is no maximum length of spurs for Athletes of horses n) <u>non-compliance or incorrect spurs will entail elimination</u> For further information regarding spurs, please
4.3.4	Horses	FEI Para Dressage rule change	<p>4.3.4 Horses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) horses and ponies must be at least 6 years old to compete in EA Para Dressage and for Grand Prix tests the horses must be a minimum age as per the FEI rules.



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5.6.2	Age of horses/ponies	FEI Para Dressage rule change	a) horses/ponies must be aged 6 years or over to be eligible to compete in Para-Dressage. For Grand Prix tests the horses must be a minimum age as per the FEI rules.
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9.1.1	Australian Para Dressage Championships – Administration	Update	<p>b) all grades of FEI Para Dressage competitions I, II, III, IV and V and Freestyle and Virtus Performance Level competitions – must be included</p> <p>d) Qualification criterion may be set by the EAPDC annually. FEI criteria relating to eligibility for the Team(Grand Prix) and Individual (Special) tests should be taken into account. (min 60% at Novice(Intermediate)) Eligibility for Virtus Performance Level to consider Virtus International Guidelines with a minimum requirement of 60% in 2 Virtus International Performance Level Video tests in the preceding 12 months.</p> <p>e) other levels and tests may also be included (e.g. EA National Para Dressage tests & Virtus Development Level Dressage tests) for each grade. In order to make these viable, entries of a minimum of 10 eligible combination are required to offer additional Para Dressage tests. Qualification requirements as prescribed by the EAPDC may be set annually.</p> <p>i) all Athletes competing in either FEI PD tests, EA PD dressage tests or Virtus tests must be classified</p> <p>j) a copy of the Athletes FEI/EA PD/Virtus Master List and national list is to be provided to the Chief Steward and all judges</p>
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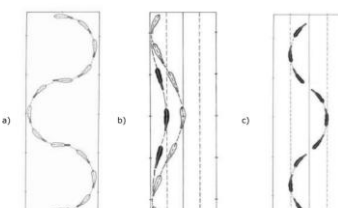
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9.1.3	Competition conditions		<p>a) no test may be commanded unless specified on the Athlete's FEI/EA PD Master List or national list</p> <p>Note: Virtus athletes are allowed callers and commanders as they are considered to be standard aids for Virtus athletes.</p>
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9.3	Classification		<p><i>Add a statement:</i></p> <p>Virtus classification is managed by Sport Inclusion Australia and must be obtained prior to the closing date of the event.</p>
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<p>Annex A Geometry</p>			<p>Page 87 the diagram of the 3 loop serpentine between the quarter lines as is shown in FEI dressage judges manual p. 12.</p>  <p><i>Serpentine: The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centreline, the Horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length. Serpentine with one (1) loop on the long side of the arena are executed with five (5) metres or ten (10) metres distance from the track (b). Serpentine around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c)</i></p>
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	<p>Numerous sections of EA Para Dressage Rules</p>	<p>To align with new FEI rule update</p>	<p>Index – 3.2 Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids) Index – Annex H Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids) Change all highlighted sections below from compensating aids to adaptive equipment (compensating aids):</p> <p>SECTION 3 CLASSIFICATION, DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT</p> <p>3.1 Classification Master List (Master List) The FEI and EA maintain a 'Classification Master List' (known as The Master List). Athletes must be classified, and entered on the relevant Classification Master List to compete in EA Para Dressage Competitions. Where an Athlete is both FEI and EA classified, the FEI Master List will take precedence. The Master List will include details pertaining to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athlete name, date of birth, functional profile number, Grade, Profile and Grade status • the compensating aids and equipment that may be used and the date of classification • date of initial classification, most recent classification date, and Fixed Review date, if applicable • classified Para Dressage Athletes must be included on either the FEI PD or EA PD Master List to compete • the OC will provide the judges and the chief steward and gear checker, with a list of compensating aids for competitors. <p>3.1.1 Other Para Dressage saddlery aids permitted – Compensating Aids There are three categories of Compensating Aids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard compensating aids are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in the FEI Dressage Rules, which may be used by the Athletes across all functional profiles. Standard compensating Aids are allowed to be used by all classified para dressage athletes • Profile-specific compensating aids are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery, which may be used by nominated profiles and must be noted on the EA or FEI Master List following Classification evaluation. Requests for profile-specific compensating aids can be made to EA or to the Chief Classifier at an Event. (Refer to the summary table of Annex IX FEI Para Dressage Rules) • Non Standard compensating aids are aids, other than those above, required by an individual Athlete and not described specifically in these rules. The aid is prescribed specifically for the Athlete to enable them to ride the Horse without providing an advantage over other Athletes within the same Profile or Grade. These aids may include modifications to a Standard or Profile-specific Compensating aid, or a piece of non-Standard equipment custom made for the Athlete. For EA Classified athletes, these aids must be approved by EA and listed on the EA Classification Master List. For FEI Classified athletes these aids must be approved by the FEI and listed on the FEI Classification Master List Refer to Annex IV for a summary of the common compensating aids (copied from Annex IV of the FEI Para Dressage Rules) . <p>3.2 Compensating aids and Gear check</p> <p>a) It is the Athlete's responsibility to ensure that their compensating aids (if any) are permitted as per the Rules and are listed appropriately on the EA/FEI Master List and are checked by the Steward</p> <p>b) Any equipment that is not permitted may result in elimination</p> <p>3.2.1 Key features of Compensating Aids:</p> <p>a) a copy of the Athlete's compensating aids as per the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List must be sent to the Organising Committee with the entry form at the time of entry</p> <p>b) it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all special equipment/compensating aids are</p>
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3.13.2 Stirrups- f) Magnetic stirrups are permitted. These are both standard **adaptive equipment (compensating aids)** for all Athletes and do not need to be noted on the Master List

7.4.2 Steward's Responsibilities a) checking the **adaptive equipment (compensating aids)** of each Athlete

8.1 Recommendation/Guidelines for organising committees running Para Dressage events n) a pack should be provided for the Chief Judge and the Chief Steward which includes stewards' phone contacts, latest draws, stable allocations, current **adaptive equipment (compensating aids)** list, plus a copy of current EA rules pertaining to Para Dressage

9.2.3 Stewards It is compulsory that an accredited EA/FEI Para Dressage Steward be appointed to oversee the application of permitted **adaptive equipment (compensating aids)** and the riding of horses belonging to Athletes in Grades I, II and III by other than the nominated Athlete.

Annex H: Adaptive Equipment (Compensating Aids) Summary

Change all highlighted sections below from compensating aids to adaptive equipment (compensating aids):

ANNEX H: Compensating Aids Summary

COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE													
Profile-Specific Compensating Aids													
Profile	Grade	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules	Based on current FEI rules
1-6	I/II												
7	I												
8	III												
9	II												
10a/b	II/III												
11a/b	II/III												
12a/b	I/II												
13	I												
14	III												
15	IV												
16	V												
17a	III												
17b	IV												
18a	IV												
18b	IV												
19a	V												
20	V												
21	V												
22	V												
23	V												
24	V												
25a	IV												
25b	IV												
26	V												
27	III												
28	IV												
29a/b/c	II/III												
30/31a	IV												

Standard Compensating Aids
Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List
Saddle with head only
Sitting or rising trot
Stirrups
Surch
Saddle any type
Soft hand rein
Deep saddle
Elastic bands on stirrups
Enchained stirrups
Magnetic stirrups
1 whip
Rein plate and/or neck strap
Lower rein on double bridle
Elastic inserts in reins
Safety vest (including inflatable)
Knocked down/lean stops

Non-Standard Compensating Aids
These are aids or equipment not described in the table on the left. The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid is approved by the FEI Classification Panel. See application form on FEI website.
* Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List once approved.