

CHAPTER 1 – GETTING STARTED

To be read in conjunction with current ESNZ General Regulations and the FEI General Regulations and FEI Dressage Rules which govern FEI Dressage Events, Competitions, and Event Officials.

ARTICLE 401 – ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

Refer also ESNZ General Regulations Article 123

- 401.1 Riders competing in graded competitions must be Child or Full members of ESNZ.
- 401.2 Riders competing in non-graded competitions must be Introductory, Child, or Full Members of ESNZ or pay an ESNZ casual membership fee per each day of the event entered.

ARTICLE 402 – AGE OF ATHLETES

In competitions and events run under ESNZ Dressage Rules

- 402.1 The official age of an athlete for the competition season is determined by the age of the rider at 1 August in each calendar year. The competition season is defined as being from 1 August in each calendar year until 31 July in the following calendar year.
- 402.2 Athletes may take part in competitions on a horse (measuring over 148cm) from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn twelve (12) years.
- 402.3 Youth Riders (U25) include riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn twelve years (12) until they turn twenty-five (25) years of age. If a rider turns twenty-five (25) on or after 1 August they may continue to compete in Youth competitions until 31 July in the following calendar year.
- 402.4 Young Riders include riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn twelve (12) years until they turn twenty-one (21) years of age. If a rider turns twenty-one (21) on or after 1 August they may continue to compete in Young Rider competitions until 31 July in the following calendar year.
- 402.5 Age restricted Competitions may be organised at the discretion of the OC subject to specification in the event schedule eg 12-16yrs, 17-20 yrs, 14-18yrs, 21-25yrs.
- 402.6 Notwithstanding the rules set out in Article 402 above, a competition may be run using the FEI age restrictions set out in the FEI rules. In the event that a competition is run subject to the FEI age restrictions, this must be clearly set out in the competition schedule.

ARTICLE 403 – PONY RIDERS

- 403.1 Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn five years including lead rein competitions (Refer Annex 4 Lead Rein Competitions rules)
- 403.2 If a rider of a pony has reached the age of 16yrs on 1 August in any calendar year and turn 17yrs on or after 1 August, they may compete in competitions restricted to ponies until the end of the season ie 31 July in the following calendar year.
- 403.3 A rider who is 17yrs or older at 1 August may compete on a pony but NOT in those Competitions restricted to ponies and pony riders.

ARTICLE 404 – RIDER CATEGORIES

- 404.1 Riders competing in Dressage competitions run under ESNZ Dressage Rules may be categorised according to their experience.
- 404.2 From time to time, competitions and series will be restricted to riders of certain categories.

The following table sets out the ESNZ Dressage Rider Categories:

Category N	(CN) Newcomers. For riders who have never earned grading points at any Level
Category 1	(C1) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Preliminary (Level 1)
Category 2	(C2) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Novice (Level 2)
Category 3	(C3) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Elementary (Level 3)
Category 4	(C4) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Medium (Level 4)
Category 5	(C5) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Advanced Medium (Level 5)
Category 6	(C6) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Advanced (Level 6)
Category 7	(C7) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Small Tour (Level 7)

Category 8	(C8) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Intermediate Tour (Level 8)
Category 9	(C9) For riders who have earned 15 or more grading points at Big Tour (Level 9) (Int II- GP-GPS- GPFS)
Category M (Masters)	(CM) Masters. For Riders 50yrs & over (age from the beginning of the calendar year that the rider turns 50)
Category Am (Amateur)	(CAm) Any rider C5 or below is a CAm rider. A CAm rider may compete in Amateur competitions at any level not more than two levels below that rider's rider category. Examples: A C5 rider may compete in any CAm competition or series at levels 3,4 and 5. A C4 rider may compete in any CAm competition or series at levels 2,3 and 4.

ARTICLE 405 – ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES AND PONIES

Refer also ESNZ General Regulations Chapter Three

- 405.1 All horses and ponies must be registered with ESNZ when competing in any graded competition, with the exception that foreign horses and riders need not be registered if competing as part of a Foreign National representative team.
- 405.2 Foreign owned horses or horses imported from three years of age or over (age based on official foaling dates see Article 405.3 will be classified as Grand Prix (Level 9), unless a certificate from the National Federation of its country of origin is sent to ESNZ giving either, its records of competition or a statement that the horse has never been registered for competition. The horse may then be graded in accordance with these Rules.
- 405.3 For the purposes of determining a horse/pony age under these Rules, an official foaling date of 1st August applies to Southern Hemisphere born horses and 1st January for Northern Hemisphere born horses.
- 405.4 Subject to Article 405.3
- 405.4.1 A horse must be at least three years of age, before competing in any competition run under these Rules.
- 405.4.2 The age of all horses and ponies entered for Young Dressage Horse or Pony Classes must be verified by evidence to prove the age of the horse or pony

- 405.4.3 Horses wishing to qualify to represent ESNZ at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses must be registered with a stud book recognized by the WBFSH.
- 405.5 A horse/pony must be:
- 405.5.1 at least seven years of age before competing in Grade 7 (Small Tour)
- 405.5.2 at least eight years of age before competing in Grades 8 & 9 (Medium Tour & Big Tour)
- 405.6 The Person Responsible for making an entry is responsible for ensuring that the horse/pony is eligible for the competition/s in which they are making the entry
- 405.7 With the exception of Age Group and/or Training Classes, horses/ ponies may compete in any grade starting with the lowest grade which the horse is currently graded.
- 405.8 Organising Committees may control entries by restricting the number of starts per Athlete/Horse each day. Such a restriction must be advertised in the event schedule. However, horses/ponies cannot be restricted to one grade and are eligible to start at more than one Grade per day providing the horse/pony is eligible for each grade level.
- 405.9 With the exception of Horse/Pony or Athlete Age Group Championships, it is recommended that for National and Island Titles, a horse or pony or Athlete may only contest one Title in one level.
- 405.10 Subject to meeting the criteria for entry, Horses and Ponies may compete on equal terms. However, if classes restricted to pony riders are offered, ponies and pony riders may only compete in the pony classes. Exceptions may be approved by Dressage NZ for national series or competitions run under special conditions.

ARTICLE 407 – SPECIAL COMPETITIONS

- 407.1 To create more interest and variety in Dressage Competition for both riders and spectators it is intended that special competitions will from time to time be authorised by the Technical Officer in conjunction with Dressage Board.
- 407.2 Where they conflict, the rules for Special Competitions will override relevant rules in other chapters.
- 407.3 Organisations affiliated to ESNZ intending to run a special competition, which does not come within the rules for dressage, must submit their proposed conditions to the Dressage Sport Manager for authorisation by the Dressage NZ Board.

- 407.4 Detailed conditions for special competitions must be set out in the event schedule programme.
- 407.5 Dressage with Jumping Competitions:
- 407.5.1 If a test is ridden once to count for straight dressage and for the dressage phase of a Dressage with Jumping competition, the same horse and rider are eligible to enter both competitions.
- 407.5.2 When a test is ridden for a straight dressage competition and for the dressage phase of a Dressage with Jumping Competition, the same horse may be ridden by one rider for the straight Dressage Competition and another rider for the dressage phase of the Dressage with Jumping Competition.

ARTICLE 408 – ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITIONS & SERIES

- 408.1 It is the responsibility of the Person Responsible for a horse at an event to ensure that the horse is eligible for the competition in which it is entered.
- 408.2 It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that he/she is eligible for any competition in which he/she is entered.
- 408.3 If a horse or rider is entered in a competition which that horse or rider is ineligible, then that horse and/or rider will be removed from that competition. The organising committee may at their discretion transfer the horse and/or riders' entry into another competition which that horse and/or rider is eligible for.
- 408.4 If a horse or rider is intentionally entered into a competition in which that horse or rider is ineligible this may be referred under procedures set out in ESNZ General Regulations Article 143 and may attract a disciplinary sanction.

ARTICLE 410 – GRADING OF HORSES & PONIES

- 410.1 Dressage competitions are divided into six grades and nine levels.
- 410.2 Subject to Article 410.3 when a horse/pony gains 30 points in any level as defined in the table

Introductory	Non-Graded only	
Level 1 / Grade 1	Preliminary	Less than 30 points in Grade 2 or above
Level 2 / Grade 2	Novice	Less than 30 points in Grade 3 or above
Level 3 / Grade 3	Elementary	Less than 30 points in Grade 4 or above
Level 4 / Grade 4	Medium & Pony FEI Tests	Less than 30 points in Grade 5 or above
Level 5 / Grade 5	Advanced Medium	Less than 30 points in Grade 6 or above
Level 6 / Grade 6	Advanced	Less than 30 points in Grade 7 or above
FEI Levels /Grades 7-9		
Level 7 (Small Tour)	FEI YR Tests, PSG, Int I, Int I Freestyle	
Level 8 (Medium Tour)	Int A/B, Int A/B Freestyle	
Level 9 (Big Tour)	Int II, U 25 GP, GP, GP Special , GP Freestyle	

- 410.3 FEI Levels (Grades 7-9) Horses may compete in any grade/level of test within Levels 7-9 at any event regardless of points earned.
- 410.4 Subject to the exceptions under Article 410, a horse or pony will receive grading points for qualifying percentages received in individual dressage competitions, run under the rules of the FEI or ESNZ or the rules of a National Federation affiliated to the FEI, in the levels set out in Article 410.2.
- 410.5 Grading Points will be awarded on a percentage basis as follows:

57.00% to 59.99%	1 point	67.00% to 69.99%	5 points
60.00% to 62.99%	2 points	70.00% to 74.99%	7 points
63.00% to 66.99%	3 points	> 75.00%	10 points

- 410.6 Rider age group classes where any grade of horse and /or pony may enter, will accrue grading points at the level of the competition.
- 410.7 Percentages received by horses/ponies competing in any non-graded competition do not count for Grading Points.
- 410.8 Grading points are taken as at the evening prior to the commencement of an event.
- 410.9 All points earned during an event will be added to the horses' grading points at the level at which they were earned.
- 410.10 Ponies and horses may compete in all competitions unless the schedule states otherwise and classes for both categories are offered.
- 410.11 The Person Responsible for making an entry is responsible for ensuring that the horse/pony is eligible for the competition/s in which they are making the entry.
- 410.12 Test of choice competitions are permitted at Training and Local Events.
- 410.13 Test of Choice Competitions may be run as graded or non graded. If the competition is graded, the correct number and List of Judges must officiate. The results must be forwarded to ESNZ and include the level and test ridden and percentage gained by each horse/rider.
- 410.14 If Test of Choice grading results are submitted to the National Office electronically, each Test (regardless of number of competitors) must be submitted as a separate class to ESNZ. This will result in a winner & place getter, if any, for each test regardless of the Test of Choice classification awarded at the event. If results are not submitted in this way, the ESNZ database upload programme is unable to automatically upload the results and no grading points will be recorded.

ARTICLE 411 – DOWNGRADING OF HORSES & PONIES

- 411.1 Horses or Ponies may be downgraded, following an application to Dressage NZ on the prescribed form together with any fee due.
- 411.2 A horse or pony may be downgraded to the Grade at which the applicant rider has no more than 15pts but not lower than Novice (Level 2) unless the applicant rider is a CN rider in which case a horse or pony may be downgraded to Preliminary (Level 1). (E.g. A rider with less than 15pts in Elementary may downgrade a horse to Novice).
- 411.3 Once downgraded, upon gaining 30 points in a level (as set out in the table in Article 410.2), the horse or pony may not compete in any level below that level.
- 411.4 Only the applicant rider may compete the horse at the downgraded level.
- 411.5 If, following downgrading, the horse or pony is competed (including competing HC) by any other rider:
- 411.5.1 The downgrading ceases to apply and the horse or pony will revert to its pre-downgraded level and grading points status; and
 - 411.5.2 The restriction in Article 411.7 will still apply; and
 - 411.5.3 Should any other rider wish to compete the horse or pony at any level lower than its original grade, a new application under Article 411.1 must be made.
- 411.6 A downgraded horse or pony may not compete, with the rider who made the application to downgrade the horse or pony, at the horse or pony's original level in any National Championship Competition (NCH) or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ, within 12 months of the downgrading, including any qualification competition subject to the following:
- 411.6.1 The rider who requested the downgrading must make an application to revoke the horse or pony's downgrading in accordance with the procedure determined by Dressage NZ for revocation of downgrading; and
 - 411.6.2 If, following the revocation of downgrading the horse or pony receives grading points at the original level, with the rider who made the application to revoke the downgrading, the horse or pony must then remain at the original level with that rider.
- 411.7 Once a horse or pony has been downgraded, subject to Article 411.5 the horse or pony may not compete with any rider, at any level, in any Island (ICH), National Championship Competition (NCH) or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ within 12 months of the downgrading being approved, regardless of ownership.

A downgraded horse or pony may compete in any class or combination of classes which do not contribute to an ESNZ title at U25 National Championships, Open National Championships and Horse of the Year Show in the first year of being downgraded.

Note: The list of ESNZ titles is listed in the ESNZ General Regulations <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/esnz-rules/>

- 411.8 Downgraded horses/ponies may be entered in Athlete age group competitions at any event with no restrictions unless specified in the schedule.
- 411.9 The annual registration fees for the downgraded horse or pony will be charged at the amount set from time to time by Dressage NZ for the horse or pony's original grade for the first year of the downgrade and thereafter at the fee set for the level at which the horse is currently graded.

ARTICLE 412 – COMPETING "HORS CONCOURS"

- 412.1 A horse may be permitted to take part in a competition "Hors Concours" at any level.
- 412.2 Permission must be obtained from the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee may withhold permission at their discretion without being obliged to give reasons.
- 412.3 Horses may not compete "Hors Concours" at National or other Named Events, or other events at the discretion of Dressage NZ.
- 412.4 The Athlete / horse combination is subject to the rules as if he were a competitor in the competition in question, except as provided for in this rule.
- 412.5 Full entry fee must be paid but the competitor is not entitled to any prize or prize money or grading points.

ARTICLE 413 – ATHLETES REQUIRING DISPENSATIONS

- 413.1 Any rider with a physical disability which prevents him/her from riding the Test in accordance with these Articles should apply to ESNZ Dressage for a Dispensation Certificate.
- 413.2 Any rider with a physical disability which prevents them from complying with the dress code in Article 418, should apply to ESNZ Dressage for a Dispensation Certificate.
- 413.3 Any rider holding an ESNZ Dressage Dispensation certificate under Article 413 must ensure a copy of their dispensation certificate is available to the OC if required.

These will normally be loaded to online event management systems unless any rider specifically requests that this information is not available via such platforms.

This information must be available, in order that the judges may be informed of the dispensation.

- 413.4 Para Equestrian Dressage riders will automatically be accredited with compensating aids as per their official classification card, but should apply to ESNZ Dressage for any additional dispensations required.

ARTICLE 415 – DRESS

- 415.1 Any competition run under FEI rules will be subject to the FEI rules for dress.

415.2 Earphones

415.2.1 Under penalty of elimination, the use of earphones by riders are strictly forbidden at all dressage events when competing.

415.2.2 Earphones are however, permitted during training and warm up.

415.3 Pony Club Dress

415.3.1 Pony Club Jewellery refer Annex 10 Para D.

415.3.2 Pony Club Gear Inspection, refer Annex 10 Para D.

- 415.4 The following table applies to all competitions held which are subject to ESNZ Dressage rules. However, when an area group and/or club holds a non-graded club event which will be run under Dressage NZ rules, the Area Group and/or Club may specify the attire riders may wear. Pony Club or Riding Club uniform may be worn at Training Events (TE) and Non-Graded competitions.

Safety Helmets	<p>A properly fitted, securely fastened, correctly maintained helmet meeting the following standards MUST be worn at all times when mounted on the Event grounds, and must comply with one of the following standards and must be current ESNZ tagged: (Refer to Annex 13 for diagrams of approved standards)</p> <p>Approved Protective Headgear Safety Standards:</p> <p>AS/NZS 3838 (2006 or later) with five ticks mark</p> <p>VG1 with kitemark or IC mark</p> <p>ASTM F1163-2004a or later with SEI mark</p> <p>PAS 015:2011 or later with kitemark or IC mark</p> <p>Snell E2016 or later with official Snell logo</p>
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Jacket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riding jackets are optional at Training & Local Events at all levels. • Riding Jackets are compulsory at Regional and National events at all levels. • Tailcoats are permitted at levels Advanced to Grand Prix at all events • In the interest of athlete health and safety during weather extremes at RE & NCH the OC may give permission at their discretion, for athletes to compete without a jacket. • If an athlete chooses not to wear a jacket, the shirt must have short or long sleeves and any stock or tie must be suitably pinned down. • A rain jacket may be worn in wet weather at the discretion of the athlete.
Shirt /Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An athlete must wear a shirt with a stock or a tie, or an integrated choker collar or a choker collar.
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves are optional in Introductory & Preliminary non-graded classes. • Gloves are compulsory for all other competitions. • At Levels 6–9 gloves must be white, off white, black or same colour as jacket.
Jodhpurs Breeches	<p>All Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, light or dark coloured jodhpurs or breeches are permitted in competition, bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrasting piping is allowed • If “full seat” style breeches or jodhpurs are worn, dark colours black, brown or grey are allowed in the “full seat”.
Boots Gaiters	<p>Introductory and Prelim non-graded classes only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suede chapettes may be worn. • Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots with or without gaiters. • If gaiters are worn they must be same colour as the jodhpur boots. <p>Preliminary to Advanced Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots with or without gaiters. • If gaiters are worn they must be same colour as the jodhpur boots. • Suede chapettes not permitted in Graded Classes. <p>Advanced to Grand Prix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long boots, black or same colour as jacket

ARTICLE 416 – SPURS

- 416.1 Spurs are not compulsory in any competition run under ESNZ Dressage Rules.
- 416.2 If worn, spurs must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot.
- 416.3 Any spur that has a curved shank must be worn with the curve down. Exception: Goose or swan neck spurs. (Diagram 1)
- 416.4 The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate.
- 416.5 Spurs of the type shown below (Diagram 2) are allowed, as long as the rowel is blunt/smooth. Fixed rowels and sharp edges on spurs are not allowed.
- 416.6 Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs are allowed ("impuls spur") (Diagram 3).
- 416.7 "Dummy" spurs with no shanks are allowed (Diagram 4)



Diagram 1 Gooseneck Spur



Diagram 2 Blunt or Smooth Rowel Spur



Diagram 3 Impuls Spur



Diagram 4 Dummy Spurs



Blunt Spur

ARTICLE 417 – WHIPS

- 417.1 A whip may be carried in any test except the following:
- 417.1.1 FEI tests at the National Championships and the Horse of the Year Show.
 - 417.1.2 Dressage NZ may determine that whips may not be used in competitions / other than HOY & NCH but this must be stated in the event schedule.
 - 417.1.3 For YDH rules on whips refer to Annex 7.
- 417.2 When a whip is permitted to be used the maximum length of a whip is:
- 417.2.1 When riding Horses: 120cm (including flapper); and
 - 417.2.2 When riding Ponies: 100cm (including flapper).
- 417.3 In competitions where a whip is not permitted to be used in the test, the penalty for carrying a whip is subject to a penalty as per Article 418.
- 417.3.1 The use of one whip as permitted under Article 417.2, in the practice area is allowed: and
 - 417.3.2 The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will entail a penalty of 2 points per judge.
- 417.4 Upon arrival at the event grounds only:
- 417.4.1 The rider when riding, walking, leading or lunging a horse (lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip as permitted under Article 417.2 anywhere on the event ground; or
 - 417.4.2 The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above; and
 - 417.4.3 Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse.
- 417.5 If, at an event, a TD determines a rider has breached Article 417.2 and the rider has not yet entered the competition arena, the rider will be issued with a warning by the TD. However, if at the same event, the same rider on the same horse is found to be in breach of Article 417.2 by the TD the rider and horse will be disqualified from all remaining competitions they are entered in at the event.

ARTICLE 418 – PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENING ARTICLES (415–417)

ARTICLE 418: PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENING ART'S 415–417 – INCORRECT DRESS		
ITEM	REASON	PENALTY
Safety Helmets	Non approved / not correctly tagged Refer to ESNZ GR Article 151 for penalties	ESNZ GR Art 151
Jacket	Non-compliant with Article 415 for the rider's relevant competition	2 pts per judge
Shirt / Stock /Tie	Non-compliant with Article 415 for the rider's relevant competition	2 pts per judge
Gloves	Not worn when required or Incorrect colour	2 pts per judge
Jodhpurs/Breeches	Non-compliant with Article 415 for the rider's relevant competition	2 pts per judge
Boots	Incorrect colour	2 pts per judge
Gaiters	Non-compliant with Article 415 for the rider's relevant competition	2 pts per judge
Earphones:	Riding the test with earphones	Elimination
Whip	Incorrect length in arena - Article 417 Carrying more than one whip without official dispensation	Elimination Elimination
Whip	Excessive use in or outside of arena	Elimination and/or may be subject to ESNZ legal sanction
Spurs	Excessive use / not approved type or not metal, or worn upside down	Elimination and /or may be subject to ESNZ legal sanction

SADDLERY (ARTICLES 420-430)

Articles 420-430 inclusive, applies at all times from arrival on the event grounds except that a running martingale with snaffle bridle only, boots, bandages and fly mask are permitted when training or warming up.

Any competition run under FEI rules will be subject to the FEI rules for saddlery.

ARTICLE 420 – SADDLES

- 420.1 Saddles must be worn and be plain (dressage, show, side saddle, GP or jumping saddle) and must be brown, black, grey or navy.
- 420.2 Treeless saddles are permitted but must look similar to the above plain saddles. Western style, traditional Iberian or Arabian (with raised pommel and/or cantle) or brightly coloured saddles are not permitted.
- 420.3 Stirrup leathers and English style stirrups or safety stirrups are compulsory and must be attached to the saddle and used in the conventional way. Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the inside or outside branch.
- 420.4 Unless official ESNZ Dressage dispensation is approved (Article 413) the rider's boots must not be fixed to the stirrup iron by any means (e.g. magnets) and if used as such without dispensation will result in elimination.
- 420.5 Saddle covers are only allowed in extreme wet weather conditions.
- 420.6 Seat savers are only allowed with dispensation from Dressage NZ under Article 413.

ARTICLE 421 – SADDLE CLOTHS

- 421.1 Subject to the exceptions provided under Articles 421.2 and 412.3 the saddle cloth if used, should be predominantly plain. The horse's identification number may be displayed on the rear corner on each side of the saddle blanket.
- 421.2 Saddle cloths bearing the New Zealand Flag or Silver Fern may only be worn by a competitor who is officially representing New Zealand and has been presented with either to wear. These must be removed at all other times.
- 421.3 Sponsors or commercial logos are permitted on saddlecloths subject to ESNZ General Regulations Article 125 & Annex E
 - 421.3.1 While present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies the name and/or logo of the Athlete's sponsor(s), may appear on a surface area not exceeding two hundred square centimetres (200cm²) on each side of saddle cloth;

- 421.3.2 While present in the Competition area and during prize-giving ceremonies names or logos identifying a non-sponsoring manufacturer of the clothing, equipment may appear only once per item of clothing, equipment and solely on a surface area not exceeding (3 cm²) (maximum on centimetres - 1cm high, maximum three centimetres - 3cm wide) for clothing and equipment.

ARTICLE 422 – BRIDLES

No noseband may ever be so tightly fixed that it will harm the horse. It must be possible to place one finger comfortably under the front of the noseband, Refer to picture in Annex 1

Except for the buckles and padding, the headstall and noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. Padding is allowed on bridles. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not be in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crownpiece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the horse or the bit.

A browband is required, and except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material.

The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull.

A throatlatch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem bridle are used.

The ST Zaum Poll Relief bridle is permitted.

A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit. Reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material.

Bridles must be predominantly black, brown, grey or navy and not be decorated with tassels or any additions to the normal configuration.

- 422.1 **Introductory to Medium:** A plain snaffle bridle is required to be used with a regular cavesson noseband, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, a crossed noseband, a combined noseband or a Micklem or similar design of bridle. The Micklem or similar bridle must be used with a permitted bit and without bit clips.

422.1.1 When a horse/pony is to compete in a test that only allows a snaffle bridle to be used, a double bridle is not allowed to be used in the warmup for that test.

422.2 **Advanced Medium to Grand Prix:** A plain snaffle or double bridle with the exception that the National Dressage selectors may require a horse or pony to be ridden in an FEI test in a simple double bridle where the FEI test would require this if the test was ridden under FEI rules for Dressage. A noseband is compulsory

ARTICLE 423 – NOSE NETS, EAR HOODS & PLUGS

423.1 Nose nets may be used, but must be discreet and must not cover the mouth of the horse. Refer to picture in Annex 1.

423.2 Ear hoods are permitted for events and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the horse's eyes and ear plugs are not permitted with the exception of Article 423.3. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods must not be attached to the noseband.

423.3 Ear plugs are not allowed in competition but are permitted in prize giving ceremonies and during any official horse inspection.

ARTICLE 424 – BITS

(Refer to page 55-57 for permitted bit diagrams)

Snaffle, Bridoon and curb bits must have a smooth surface.

Twisted and wire bits are prohibited.

Bits must be made of metal, rigid plastic, or durable plastic synthetic material or flexible rubber. Bits may only be covered with rubber or latex.

Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. E.g. A Dr Bristol Bit i.e., where the link plate is long, flat and set at an angle to the horse's tongue; is not classed as an ordinary double-jointed snaffle.

The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the Horse.

The minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimetres (12 mm) for curb bit, and ten millimetres (10 mm) for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a minimum diameter of twelve millimetres (12 mm) for horses and ten millimetres (10mm) for Ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

Any judge suspecting that a competitor is using an illegal bit may ask to inspect the bit or request a steward to inspect the bit in question immediately after the completion of the test. Failure to comply with the request will entail automatic disqualification from the test concerned.

424.1 Snaffle Bits

- 424.1.1 Snaffle bits are permitted when the use of a double bridle is not compulsory.
- 424.1.2 Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, eggbutt and hanging cheeks. Single or double-jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring.
- 424.1.3 Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.
- 424.1.4 A snaffle may have up to two joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double-jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate.
- 424.1.5 A double jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a curve within the dimensions specified above.

424.2 Bridoon Bits

- 424.2.1 A bridoon bit is defined as a snaffle bit that is used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle.
- 424.2.2 Bridoons may be used with loose ring and eggbutt cheeks.
- 424.2.3 Bridoons must have one or two joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed bridoon; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may not have the effect of a tongue plate.
- 424.2.4 Bridoons where the centre link(s) of the bit can lock and have the effect of a mullen mouth snaffle are not permitted.

424.3 Curb Bits

- 424.3.1 The length of the lever arm below the mouthpiece of the curb bit is limited to ten centimetres (10 cm). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek, and must not exceed five centimetres (5cm). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.
- 424.3.2 Curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks. They may have rotating lever arms.
- 424.3.3 The mouthpiece may be straight or shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm.
- 424.3.4 Curb chain can be made of metal or leather or a combination. Cover for curb chain can be made of leather, rubber, or sheep skin. Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed. A curb chain may never be as tightly fixed so as to harm the Horse.

ARTICLE 425 – DRESSAGE SCHEDULE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 425.1 Approval of the following equipment does not in any way imply any endorsement of a particular product from an individual manufacturer or supplier.
- 425.2 In the interests of promoting safety in the sport, Dressage New Zealand may from time to time approve the use of a particular type of device, mechanism, item of saddlery or apparel, which is designed or intended to enhance the safety of the competitor.
- 425.3 Safety Items approved by Dressage New Zealand will be gazetted by publication on the ESNZ/Dressage website and a schedule of Approved Safety Equipment will be maintained by Dressage New Zealand.
- 425.4 A short strap fastened to "D" rings on the pommel of a saddle (commonly referred to as a "Monkey Strap") or a breastplate is approved for use as a safety device for riders at competitions
- 425.5 Neck straps are approved as a safety device for riders use at all levels in National classes. A neck strap is a single plain strap fitted in one loop around the horse's neck, can only be used for safety purposes, cannot be used to stabilise the rider

- 425.6 Stirrup irons of the type commonly referred to as "Toe Stoppers" are approved for use as a safety device for riders at competitions.
- 425.7 Riders are permitted to wear body protectors at all levels.

ARTICLE 426 – SADDLERY – ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- 426.1 Martingales, boots and bandages are permitted in the warmup, but must be removed before entering the space around the competition arena.
- 426.2 Bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins etc), any form of blinkers, shadow blinds, masks, hoods or bonnets, and ear plugs (exception prizegivings & horse inspections), are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.
- 426.3 Breastplates are permitted in warm up and competition.
- 426.4 Fly mask are permitted in training or warming up, but must be removed before entering the competition space under the penalty of elimination. Fly masks must not be attached to the bridle in any way.
- 426.5 Black or brown hoof boots are permitted. They must be low profile and not to cover the coronet band or the heels of the horse.
Refer to Annex 1 for examples of approved hoof boots.

ARTICLE 427 – PLAITING, FALSE TAILS, TAIL RIBBONS

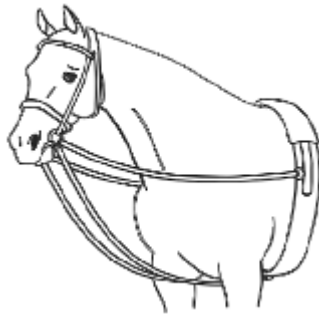
- 427.1 A horse may have its mane and tail plaited for competition but may not be decorated with extravagant decorations.
- 427.2 False tails may be worn but must not contain any metal parts.

A horse may wear a ribbon in its tail as follows.

- 427.3 A green ribbon to indicate that the horse is inexperienced at competitions and the rider would appreciate if other competitors and spectators moved quietly around that horse;
- 427.4 A red ribbon to indicate that the horse is prone to kicking and caution should be taken around that horse.

ARTICLE 428 – LUNGING, SIDE REINS

- 428.1 When lunging, single direct side reins, or double sliding side reins (triangle) are permitted. Lunging is allowed with one lunge line only. It is not permitted to ride a horse or pony while it is being lunged or to ride in single direct side reins or double sliding (triangle) side reins.



Double sliding side reins (triangle/dreieck zügel)

ARTICLE 429 – HORSE AND PONY IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

- 429.1 Horse and Pony Identification Numbers must be worn on both the near and off side of the horse/pony at all times whilst exercising and competing at Events run under ESNZ rules for Dressage;
- 429.2 Numbers must be worn either attached to the bridle on the side of the face below the ear or attached to the lower rear corner of the saddle cloth.;
- 429.3 It is permissible to provide your own ID numbers.
- 429.4 ID Numbers must be:
- 429.4.1 Black numbers on a white background;
 - 429.4.2 The numbers must be a minimum of 4.5cm high, but no more than 5.5cm high. They should be approximately 5mm wide;
 - 429.4.3 The white background must be a minimum of 9 x 6cm and should be no more than 10 x 7cm.
 - 429.4.4 OC's may allocate other forms of ID numbers for use for non-registered horses in non-graded competitions eg Rider arm bands or back numbers
- 429.5 At all other times during the Event, horses and ponies must have identification numbers with the horse's name and the person responsible name and mobile number attached to the horse (eg: on the halter, cover). Engraved metal discs or cattle ear tags are examples of acceptable methods of identification at times the horse/pony is not being exercised or competed.
- 429.6 Failure to display ID numbers as described, without a reason acceptable to the ground jury, may result in a warning, fine or disqualification from the competition as per ESNZ General Regulations Article 143. (** Pony Club refer Annex 10 Para C)

ARTICLE 430 – STALLIONS. HANDLING / SASHES / ARMBANDS

- 430.1 The ESNZ GR's govern stallions at events and reference should be made to the ESNZ GR's for the full text of this rule;
- 430.2 In summary, the Person Responsible, riders and handlers of stallions are required to comply with ESNZ General Regulations Article 133.
- 430.3 Stallions must wear a red ESNZ Stallion bridle tag. Under the ESNZ General Regulations Article 133.7, Dressage requires the rider and handler of a stallion to wear approved stallion armbands (one on each arm) or a stallion sash (see note below) at events run under ESNZ rules for Dressage, at all times when the stallion is not confined in a suitable stable/yard/truck/float.
- 430.4 The rider may however, for the competition, choose to remove the armbands at the completion of the final warm up, just before entering the area around the competition arena where they come under the jurisdiction of the ground jury.
- 430.5 Stallion sashes will be phased out and replaced by armbands, but sashes are still permitted to be used by riders/handlers who have already purchased them if they choose to do so. Sashes must be worn diagonally across the body.
- 430.6 The Specifications for Stallion Armbands: Red (approx 100mm) with a white strip (approx 25mm) and are available for purchase from ESNZ National office.

ARTICLE 431 – PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENING ARTICLES 420–430 INCLUSIVE

SPACE AROUND THE ARENA & COMPETITION ARENA	PENALTY
<p>Entering the space around the arena with whip when a whip is not permitted in the test or with boots (other than approved hoof boots) on the Horse's legs.</p> <p>An assistant may remove the item(s) before the rider enters the arena. The rider can drop the whip away from the arena.</p> <p>The Athlete will be penalised.</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>Entering the Dressage arena with whip or with boots other than approved hoof boots) on the Horse's legs.</p> <p>If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and if needed and possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s);</p> <p>The Athlete then continues the test, either starting from the beginning (from the inside of the fence) or from the movement where he was stopped.</p> <p>The marks given before he was stopped are not changed.</p> <p>The Athlete will be penalised.</p>	<p>Two (2) point per judge. These penalties are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (incl Freestyle Tests).</p>

USED IN TEST or ON GROUNDS IF NOT PERMITTED:		
Bit guards, martingale, bearing side or running reins, blinkers or other non-permitted saddlery		Elimination
Bits	Not permitted type	Elimination
Bridle	Not permitted type	Elimination
Bridle	Incorrect colour, decorated, indiscreet padding	2 pts per judge
Double Bridle	Used at Medium (Level 4) or below in warm up or in test	Elimination
Ear Plugs	Used in competition. (Permitted at Prize giving only)	Elimination
Fly Fringe	Used	Elimination
Horse Decoration	eg Glitter / Flowers	Elimination
Noseband	Non permitted for bridle used	Elimination
Noseband	No noseband	2 pts per judge
Saddle	Incorrect Colour	2 pts per judge
Saddle	Wrong style	Elimination
Saddle Cover	May only be used in extreme wet weather conditions	Elimination
Seat Saver	Used without official Dressage NZ dispensation	Elimination
Stirrups	Boots fixed to stirrups without official dispensation	Elimination
Stirrups & Leathers	No stirrups & leathers (unless with Dressage NZ official dispensation) Used in nonconventional manner	Elimination
Tongue Restraint	Used	Elimination