

Dressage NZ

YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSE COMPETITIONS RULES AND GUIDELINES

DEVELOPING DRESSAGE HORSE COMPETITIONS RULES AND GUIDELINES

Young Dressage Horse Competitions:

For 4,5,6 & 7yr old horses - providing for age specific competitions using the FEI tests

Developing Dressage Horse / Pony Competitions:

Providing for competitions where horses / ponies may compete in the tests one year below the actual age of the horse or pony

Event Status for the competitions is defined as below:

National:

National Championships and HOY, and other approved events by application to Dressage NZ

Premier League:

Young Dressage Horse or Developing Horse

Regional / Local / Training:

Developing Horse only



YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSE & PONY COMPETITIONS

General Conditions

1. Horses & Ponies

- a) Official Age of all horses and ponies is calculated as per DNZ article 461.3 (1st August for Southern Hemisphere born horses and 1st January for Northern Hemisphere born horses)
- b) Horses must exceed 149 cm with shoes
- c) Ponies must not exceed 149 cm with shoes or 148 cm without shoes
- d) Horses and ponies are not required to be ESNZ registered for Developing Horse Classes but will be subject to the \$3 per class TD Levy

2. Riders

- a) Riders must be current competitive members of ESNZ to compete in Developing Horse or Young Dressage Horse /Pony competitions at Premier League and National and other named events
- b) Riders Age Eligibility: Riders may compete in competitions for ponies from the beginning of the calendar year they turn 11 years for ponies and 12 years for horses

3. Dress Code

- a) Approved safety helmets are to be worn in all 4, 5, 6 and 7 year old competitions
- b) Dressage NZ dispensations do not apply and the use of any rider compensating aids is not permitted

4. Whips

- a) A whip is permitted to be carried in all age groups at local and regional events in YDH and Developing Horse classes
- b) Whips are not permitted to be carried in the test for 5, 6, and 7yr old rounds at Premier League and National events.
- c) In the practice area, the use of one whip is permitted at Premier League and National events. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition area or the rider will entail a penalty of 2 points from the total score prior to conversation to a percentage.
- d) For Young Horses a total maximum length of 120 cm is permitted
- e) For Ponies, a maximum length of 100 cm is permitted

5. Saddlery

- a) Refer to Dressage NZ rules 477 Saddlery which apply unless excluded as below, noting that in addition, any current FEI rules for permitted bits apply
- b) 4,5 and 6 year old horses are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle
- c) 7 year old horses may be ridden in a snaffle or double bridle
- d) The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece of the snaffle bit must be at least:
 - 14 mm for horses – refer to rule 4.4
 - 10 mm for ponies – refer to rule 4.4
- e) ***the Mexican/Crossed noseband is not permitted***
- f) ***No seat savers are permitted***

6. Results

- a) All Young Dressage Horse results must be submitted to ESNZ for recording on the ESNZ results data base
- b) No grading points are allocated for age group competitions
- c) Where possible individual marks for paces and other collective marks should be published in addition to the final score

7. Competition Formats

	National or other Named Events	Premier League	Regional & Local/Training
Competition	Young Dressage Horse /Pony	YDH or Developing Horse/Pony	YDH or Developing Horse/Pony
Horses Age Groups	4,5,6,7 yrs as separate classes or competitions	In Developing Horses classes, horses may compete in <u>one</u> age group lower than stated on the test, but may only compete in one level of test per event Eg 4yrs test for 4&5yr olds; 5yrs test for 5&6yr olds; 6yrs test for 6&7yr olds	
Ponies Age Groups	4,5 & 6 yrs as separate classes or competitions	In Developing Pony classes, there will be two divisions. Div One for 4&5yrs combined and Div Two for 6yrs. Ponies may compete in <u>one</u> division but may only compete in one division per event	
Rounds	Two or three. The third round to determine an overall Champion can either be finalists ridden and assessed by a guest rider; or judged on perspective by the panel of judges In each case the scores from each round is cumulative to determine the placegetters The number of finalists to go into the third round to be stated in the schedule	One or two. Separate classes may be held over one or two days or a two round competition may be held with scores from each round being added to give a final total and determine the placegetters	
Tests for Horses	For the 2018/19 year, the FEI tests current as at 1/8/18 will be used. The 4yr test can be ridden twice if competitions are over two rounds or separate competitions on consecutive days		
Tests for Ponies	For the 2018/19 year, the FEI tests current as at 1/8/18 will be used. The 4yr test can be ridden twice if competitions are over two rounds or separate competitions on consecutive days FEI 4yrs test for 4&5yr old ponies; FEI 5yrs test for 6yr old ponies		
Trot Work	All trot work in FEI YDH tests is to be ridden in sitting trot unless rising trot is otherwise specified (i.e.4yr old tests)		
Commanding	Only the first round tests may be commanded by either a commander appointed by the OC for all tests when horses may be ridden in groups of two or three, or own caller if permitted in the schedule See 9 (ii) Where riders are permitted to use their own commander in any test, this commander should stand at E or B and on the opposite side from the judges		

8. TESTS & SCORING

- a) The FEI Tests and judging sheets will be used for all HORSE & PONY YDH & DEVELOPING COMPETITIONS
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/dressage/tests>
- b) The FEI 4YO test can be used on consecutive days if the competition is held over two rounds

FEI Test for 4-year old horses	(Edition 2005) update 2017	PDF
FEI Preliminary Dressage Test for 5-year old horses	(Edition 2004) update 2017	PDF
FEI Final Test for 5-year old horses	(Edition 2004) update 2017	PDF
FEI Preliminary Dressage Test for 6-year old horses	(Edition 2004) update 2017	PDF
Final Test Final Test for 6-year old horses	(Edition 2004) update 2017	PDF
FEI Preliminary Dressage Test for 7-year old horses	(Edition 2016) update 2018	PDF
FEI Final Test for 7-year old horses	(Edition 2016) update 2018	PDF

- c) **Horse Leaving the Arena:** Refer to DNZ article 451.
- d) **Errors of Course:** As per the test sheets

9. JUDGES

- i. All judges and YDH specialists must adhere to the requirement of Rule DNZ rule *Conflict of Interest* and declare any conflict of interest.
- ii. For tests where the OC provides a commander, the judges should sit together at E or B. However, where the arena layout does not provide room for this positioning, the judges may sit together at C. Where riders are permitted to use their own commander in any test, this commander should stand at E or B and on the opposite side from the judges
- iii. It is recommended that there should be commentary by the judging panel made available to the public on the second round or, if possible, both rounds at national and other named events. This is also permissible at other events at the discretion of the OC

National & Other Named Events

The appointment of all YDH judges for the National Championships and other named events must be approved by the Dressage NZ Judges Sub-Committee.

- a) All rounds of 4,5,6 yrs competitions must be judged by either two FEI Young Horse judges or one FEI YDH judge plus one judge who is a NZL National List 2 accredited Young Horse judge or foreign equivalent. There may be a third judge who is recognised as a Young Horse specialist by Dressage NZ
- b) For 7 yrs competitions, in addition to the above, one technical judge of at least NZ List 2 or equivalent foreign level judge sits at C to assess the technical execution of the test, plus two other judges qualified as above, sit together at E or B to judge the quality and standard of training as per the Young Horse assessment format.

Premier League

4,5,6yrs: All competitions or rounds for 4,5,6yrs must be judged by two judges. It is recommended that judges should be either FEI Young Horse judges /or with a maximum of one judge on the panel being a NZL National List 2 accredited Young Horse judge or foreign equivalent. Where it is not possible to secure an FEI YDH judge, the second judge should be National List 2 accredited Young Horse judge or foreign equivalent

7yrs: In the 7 year old competition there must be also be third judge to assess the technical components. This judge must be at least NZ List 2 level or foreign equivalent.

Regional & Local

- i. At Regional and Local competitions, one judge in a panel of 2 must be a List 3 judge or above. , For 7yrs old competitions, the C judge must be List 2 and above.

10. Guide for Riders and Judges

Judges will award a mark out of 10 (decimal points are permitted) for walk, trot, canter, submission and perspective as a dressage horse. Judges must consider the following questions when making their assessments:

- is the horse clearly demonstrating correct education according to the training scale?
- does the horse demonstrate a desirable picture of a dressage horse?

The fundamental criteria of paces, submission and perspective as a dressage horse are evaluated as follows:

- a) the steps and strides must be in a regular rhythm and free from tension
- b) keeping in mind the training level of the horse, special emphasis should be placed on:
 - a smooth and steady contact
 - the willing acceptance of the bit
 - a submissive poll in the three basic paces and in the different tempi and the transitions
 - flexion and bending
 - the harmonious development on both reins
 - suppleness
 - desire to go forward
 - ability to engage the hindquarters
 - potential to collect.
- c) during the initial movements of the test, horses that still show signs of tension and concentration lapses, or even shying or unsettled, should be judged more benevolently than in a normal dressage minor mistakes should not be given weight if, in principle, the horse is demonstrating good movements *and* is demonstrating the adoption by the trainer of desirable training technique
- e) it is recommended that one of the judges provides a commentary after the completion of each horse's test in at least the second round but preferably for both the first and second round. This commentary is mainly for the benefit of spectators and the main purpose is to explain the rideability and strengths of the individual horse in relation to the demands at each level of competition, the quality of the three basic paces, and the horse's ability to perform as a high level dressage horse
- a) see FEI Dressage Handbook for further notes on the purpose of and judging of Young Horse competition.
- b) for the 7 year old competitions the technical judge is looking at the way the horse copes with the demands of the test and the adjustability shown with the more difficult exercises asked for and the demand for collection, engagement and mobility. All judges have a clear focus on basics, a clear rhythm, sufficient swing in the back and engagement of the hindquarters, acceptance of the contact, lateral bend and suppleness. That the horse is balanced and straight in the work without tension and able to execute the flying changes and 1/2 pirouettes correctly.
The technical and quality scores are added together.