

CHAPTER 2 – COMPETITION DAY

ARTICLE 440 – EXECUTION OF THE TESTS

- 440.1 The rider has 45 seconds from the sounding of the bell to commence the test. The test commences from the point the horse proceeds on the centre line. If the test is not commenced within 45 seconds of the sounding of the bell the rider will be penalised 2 points per judge. If the test is not commenced within 60 seconds of the sounding of the bell the rider will be eliminated.
- 440.2 A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test as soon as the horse moves forward. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks. However, if a competitor leaves the arena in any other way than that prescribed in the text of the test, this may be considered a disciplinary matter at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
- 440.3 In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the rider's body is above this point except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or is perpendicular to the point where the letters are positioned, in which case, the transitions must be done as the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition. This includes the execution of the flying changes.
- 440.4 A horse leaving the arena with all four (4) feet between the time of commencement of the test and the time of exit from the arena will be eliminated, unless the arena surround is intermittent or marked by a line in which case elimination is at the discretion of the Chief Judge. An exception to this rule is when a horse is required to recommence a test pursuant to Article 448.6
- 440.5 Resistance. Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than twenty (20) seconds will result in elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the Athlete, Horse, Officials, or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds. This also applies to any resistance before entering the Dressage arena, or when leaving the arena.
- 440.6 The Chief Judge may stop a test at any point and eliminate the rider if for any reason the Judge believes it is contrary to the best interests of the horse and/or rider to continue the test.
- 440.7 If after the horse and Athlete combination has entered the arena, the Athlete dismounts without a reason acceptable to the Chief Judge, the penalty will be elimination.

ARTICLE 441 – FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER

- 441.1 Any fall of the horse and/or rider between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute, will entail elimination from that test, and the rider may not remount to leave.
- 441.2 If there is a fall of horse and/or rider after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination and the rider may not remount to leave the arena.
- 441.3 In case of a fall of an athlete and/or horse at any time in the competition arena, in the practice arena, or elsewhere within the grounds of the event, the athlete must be checked by the event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before he/she may be permitted to take part in the next round or competition at the event.
- 441.4 Before the horse and rider may continue at the event, the Chief Judge or representative of the OC must
- 441.4.1 Must send the rider to the designated first aid official for assessment of injury. Refer to ESNZ Concussion Policy.
 - 441.4.2 May send the horse to be assessed for injury by a vet or event steward.

ARTICLE 442 – RETIREMENT OR WITHDRAWAL

- 442.1 Once the test has been completed (ie the final halt at the end of the test) it is not permissible for the Athlete to withdraw or retire from that competition.

ARTICLE 443 – THE RIDER

443.1 The salutes

- 443.1.1 At the salute, Athletes must take the reins in one hand. The head should be bowed while the other arm is held straight down to the side. In the case of two or more judges officiating on the competition, the salute is taken by the Chief Judge only. A whip may be held in either hand at the salute.

443.2 Sitting & Rising Trot

- 443.2.1 In all Introductory Tests, all trot movements are to be executed at rising trot. Transitions from walk to trot, trot to walk, trot to canter and canter to trot may be performed through sitting trot with the objective of performing a smooth transition.

- 443.2.2 In all Preliminary & Novice Tests, trot movements may be executed either “sitting” or “rising” at the discretion of the Athlete, unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.
- 443.2.3 In Elementary and higher-Level tests, all trot movements are executed “sitting”, unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.

443.3 Diagonal (In Trot)

- 443.3.1 The near hind and off-forelegs of the horse are known as the right diagonal; the off hind and near fore as the left diagonal.
- 443.3.2 An athlete is said to be riding on the right diagonal when at the rising trot, his seat returns to the saddle as the horse’s near-hind and off-fore come to the ground, and vice-versa.
- 443.3.3 The athlete should change the diagonal at every change of direction. It is optional whether he rides on the inside or the outside diagonal but must conform to the same one throughout.
- 443.3.4 When changing the rein at the rising trot from one quarter marker to another, the diagonal may be changed at the beginning or at the end of the movement, especially at the medium trot, so as not to interrupt the cadence.

ARTICLE 446 – USE OF VOICE

- 446.1 Repetitive use of voice or clicking of the tongue will result in a penalty of 2 marks off per fault for each Judge, but they are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including Freestyle tests)
- 446.2 It is the responsibility of the Judge at C to decide whether a penalty should be applied and the other judges’ sheets should be marked accordingly to ensure consistency.
Refer Article 452

ARTICLE 447 – HOLDING THE REINS WITH BOTH HANDS

- 447.1 Riding with both hands is obligatory at Dressage Events. When leaving the arena at a walk on long rein, after having finished the test the Athlete may, at his own discretion, ride with only one (1) hand.
- 447.2 Apart from the halt and salute, where the athlete must take the reins in one hand, riding with the reins in both hands is obligatory, but a discreet ‘pat on the neck’ for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc).

447.3 However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark.

ARTICLE 448 – ERRORS OF THE COURSE & TEST

- 448.1 When a competitor makes an "error of course" (eg takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc) the Chief Judge warns the rider by sounding the bell. Subject to Article 448.4
- 448.2 After ringing the bell, if necessary, the Chief Judge advises the rider the point at which the rider must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves the rider to continue the test.
- 448.3 When a rider makes an "error of the test" (eg trots rising instead of sitting, at the salute does not take the reins in one hand), they must be penalised as for an "error of the course".
- 448.4 In cases when a rider makes an "error of the course" the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance (eg if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of K, or, cantering up the centre line from A, makes a pirouette at D instead of at L) it is up to the Chief Judge to decide whether to sound the bell or not. However, if the bell is not sounded for an "error of the course" and the test requires the same movement to be repeated on the opposite rein and the rider again makes the same error, the rider is only penalised once.
- 448.5 With the exception of Article 448.4 every "error of the course" or error of test, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised the first time by 2 points, the second time by 4 points and the third time with elimination, although the rider may continue their test to the end with the marks being awarded in the ordinary way.
- 448.6 When a horse or pony enters the arena at the wrong pace the bell will be sounded, as for an error of the course, when the horse is halted. The competitor will be sent out of the arena to restart the test.
- 448.7 The decision as to whether an "error of the course" has been made will be at the sole discretion of the Judge at C. The other Judges scores will be adapted accordingly.
- 448.8 In principle a rider is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the Chief Judge notifies an error of the course by sounding the bell. If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge/s must consider the first movement shown and penalise for an error of the course.

- 448.9 If the Judge/s have not noted an error of the course during the time the rider completes the test, the rider has the benefit of the doubt and no penalty may apply.
- 448.10 Penalty points are recorded on each Judge's sheet and deducted from the total points obtained by the rider from each Judge.

ARTICLE 449 – UNAUTHORISED & OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

- 449.1 Any intentional outside intervention is considered assistance to a rider or horse and is penalised by elimination. This includes but is not limited to: Assistance by voice, signs, earphone and/or electronic communication devices. A smart watch may be worn but must not be used as a communication device.
- 449.2 Mounted riders may have their horse attached to a lead line when at walk when proceeding to or from the warmup area. Riders may not be led when mounted in the warmup area.
- 449.3 Mounted riders may have their horse attached to a lead when proceeding to and from the competition area but not in or around the competition arena. This will be considered outside assistance and will entail elimination.
- 449.4 Any assistance to get the horse into the dressage arena or the area directly around the arena including being led by another horse around the arena is considered outside assistance. (Not applicable for riders with exemption cards or for riders competing in lead rein competitions)
- 449.5 Where commanders are permitted, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text, or extracts thereof, are read out and that no other form of assistance is given. E.g. signal, remarks or inflexion of the voice. The caller may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination.

ARTICLE 450 – COMMANDED TESTS

- 450.1 All tests may be commanded with the exception of the following which must be ridden from memory:
- 450.1.1 The NZ Dressage Championship Grade Finals for ESNZ National titles;
 - 450.1.2 NZ Youth Rider Championship Finals for ESNZ National titles;
 - 450.1.3 Dressage Horse of the Year Title classes;

- 450.1.4 All FEI tests being ridden under ESNZ rules which are the equivalent of NZ Level 7 and above ie Small Tour, Young Rider tests, Medium Tour, Big Tour & U25 Grand Prix
- 450.1.5 Any series or competition/s which Dressage New Zealand may from time to time stipulate must be ridden from memory. It must be stated in the series conditions and / or event schedule which competitions may not be commanded.
- 450.2 Competitors must provide their own Commander.
- 450.3 The Commander must stand still outside the Arena opposite either B or E.
- 450.4 If the commander causes the rider to make an error of the course the rider will be penalised in accordance with Article 448
- 450.5 If, in the opinion of the Judge/s, the Commander makes any variation from the text of the test or does anything to assist the rider by signal, remarks or inflexion of the voice, a penalty may be recorded equal to that of the error of the course that would have occurred had the assistance not been given.

ARTICLE 451 – LAMENESS & BLOOD

- 451.1 Any horse that shows lameness while competing will be eliminated. The Chief Judge will ring the bell to stop the test and explain the reason for the elimination to the rider. There is no appeal against this decision
- 451.2 If there are any doubts as to the soundness of a horse or pony, the Athlete will be allowed to complete the test and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised.
- 451.3 If the judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, the Judge will stop the horse by sounding the bell to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated from that class. The elimination is final. However the horse may perform later in other class/es if there is no fresh blood or lameness. If the Judge, through examination, decides that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish the test.

ARTICLE 452 – PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF RULES

- 452.1 The penalty for a contravention of these rules will range from a two-point deduction for each occurrence of a minor infringement, such as incorrect dress; to elimination for major infringements, such as forbidden tack or when stated explicitly in the rule concerned.
- 452.2 Subject to Article 451, in the case of elimination the rider will complete the test and be notified of elimination at the end of the test.
- 452.3 Penalty points will be deducted from the final score and will not count as errors of course.
- 452.4 The following table sets out the penalties which apply under these rules (refer Articles 418 and 431 for table of penalties which apply to the use of forbidden/incorrect tack and dress):

PENALTIES	
Commanding: Having a test commanded (called) when this is not permitted. Article 450	Elimination
Commanding: Commanders reading anything other than the printed word or extracts from the test or emphasising any part of the command. Article 450.5	Penalties for an error of the course for each instance
Course Error (First) per Judge	2 point penalty
Course Error (Second) per Judge	4 point penalty
Course Error (Third). Article 448.5	Elimination
Error of Test: When a competitor makes an "error of the test" ie: trots rising instead of sitting, at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc... he/she must be penalised as for an "error of course".	Appropriate (course) error. (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
Dismounting: Rider dismounting for reason unacceptable to the judge. Article 440.7	Elimination
Entering arena when not competing	Elimination or Disqualification
Entering arena before signal at discretion of Chief judge	2-point penalty per judge
Failure to Enter Arena (Commence the test) : At discretion of Chief Judge, failing to enter the arena after 45 secs and up to 60 secs. Article 440.1	2-point penalty per judge

Failure to Enter Arena (Commence the test) : At discretion of Chief judge, failing to enter more than 60 secs after signal to start. Article 440.1	Elimination
Freestyle Tests: Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena. Article 453.3.1	2-point penalty per judge at discretion of Chief Judge
Freestyle Tests: Rider does not enter arena within 20 seconds of start of the music in freestyle tests. Article 453.3.2	2-point penalty per judge
Freestyle Tests: Exceeding Time Allowed in F/Style Article 453.3.3	0.5% point penalty per judge from Artistic mark
Fall of horse or rider Article 441	Elimination
Lameness: If the judges consider the horse is lame in the test Article 451	Elimination
Leaves Arena: Horse places all four feet outside arena where surround is continuous Article 440.4	Elimination
Leaves Arena: Horses places all four feet outside arena where surround is intermittent or marked by a line Article 440.4	Elimination at discretion of Chief Judge
Resistance: The horse refuses to continue for 20 seconds (or sooner if the CJ deems a safety issue) consecutively in a test. Article 440.5	Elimination
Repeating a movement (penalise as error of course and mark first attempt only) Article 448.8	Appropriate (course) error. (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
Intentional unauthorised (outside) assistance by voice or signs, etc, designed to help a competitor improve their performance Article 449	Elimination
Voice - Repetitive Use of voice or clicking of the tongue Article 446	2 marks off per movement per judge
Mounted riders being led around or in the competition arena Article 449.3	Elimination
Riding with Earphones and /or other communication devices without dispensation. Article 415.2	Elimination

ARTICLE 453 – FREESTYLE COMPETITIONS

- 453.1 Except where specifically provided under this Article, all rules in respect to performance and conduct of horse and rider apply to Freestyle Competitions, including applicable penalties under these rules.
- 453.2 Movements in all three paces of a similar degree of difficulty to those included in tests of the same level are to be performed. Refer to the official test in each level for details of compulsory, optional and non-permitted movements.
- 453.3 For Musical Freestyle Competitions:
- 453.3.1 Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena entails a penalty of 2pts PER JUDGE at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
 - 453.3.2 A rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the music starting. The music should cease at the final salute. The test time will start when the rider moves forward after the halt.
 - 453.3.3 Penalty for Exceeding Time allowed is the deduction of .5% from the total for artistic presentation on each Judges Score Sheet.
 - 453.3.4 In the event a rider's music fails during a freestyle test and there is no backup system:
 - 453.3.4.1 the rider may, with the permission of the Chief Judge, leave the arena;
 - 453.3.4.2 There should be minimum interference with the starting times of other riders’.
 - 453.3.4.3 The affected rider should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition.
 - 453.3.4.4 The President of the Ground Jury, after conferring with the rider, will determine when the rider should return to the arena;
 - 453.3.4.5 It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In any case marks already given will not be changed.
- 453.4 At the beginning and end of all Freestyle tests a halt for the salute is compulsory.
- 453.5 In Non-Musical Freestyle tests a warning bell will be sounded 30 seconds before the final time allowed and a bell sounded again at the time allowed. If the second bell is sounded before the test is completed, the rider must bring

the test to an end as soon as possible by turning down the centre line and halting.

ARTICLE 454 – PROHIBITED SCHOOLING

- 454.1 On no account and under penalty of disqualification from the entire event, may any horse take part in a dressage competition which has been schooled by anyone mounted in the saddle other than the competitor nominated, from midnight preceding the first competition of the Event until the conclusion of the Event.
- 454.2 Notwithstanding Article 454.1 a groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long rein and lunging by someone other than the competitor are permitted.
- 454.3 If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an Event, (for any reason other than injury or illness, or special competition) the horse must then compete Hors Concours in any further competitions at that Event. The change of rider must be notified to the OC and their approval for the substitution of the rider granted. Refer to Article 412 – Competing "Hors Concours" for other restrictions.
- 454.4 At multi-discipline events, another rider may compete a horse or pony in another discipline. However, this must not be used as an opportunity for prohibited schooling under penalty of elimination.

ARTICLE 456 – PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

- 456.1 In most cases, prizes will be presented to the winning Athletes un- mounted, but riders must be correctly attired as for the Dressage Test.
- 456.2 For mounted prize giving, dress and saddlery must be the same as permitted for the competition, however white or black boots or bandages are allowed.
- 456.3 If organisers require riders, mounted or unmounted, to attend the presentation of prizes then this must be stated in the Schedule and repeated in the Programme or Scoreboard Notice.
- 456.4 Each prize must be collected by the winner in person. Any prize not collected by the winner shall be forfeited at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- 456.5 Any rider requiring dispensation from this rule must notify the Organising Committee within reasonable time before the prize giving. The dispensation may be granted at the discretion of the Organising Committee.