

DRESSAGE NZ PLANNING FORUM 2018



REMIT: AMENDMENT TO DRESSAGE RULES

DRESSAGE

I, Alicia Zeludko

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch - **North Island Riders Representative**

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER :

NEW RULE

That a rule be initiated that protects equine participants in dressage from abuse occurring through being ridden at a level higher than their capabilities.

Options

“That a certain number of scores at X level be obtained before being able to ride at that level in RE or above rated competitions”

AND/OR

“That if during a performance a horse scores a 4 or less on more than X amount of movements, and the final score is less than 50%, that the combination will be withdrawn by officials from that level for the remainder of the competition”.

REMIT:

RATIONALE:

There is currently nothing in place that gives power to officials to stop a combination from performing in levels where the horse is clearly not comfortable participating.

The FEI code of conduct, which is specific to horse welfare, has an inclusion for abuse by misuse of aids (abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (eg whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated) – however there is no penalty or suggestion as to how to implement this if it occurs.

Recently in the USA a rider performed a Grand Prix test where most movements were unable to be performed. Throughout the test there were mistakes, with the rider taking one hand off the rein to whip her horse, with him being kicked with spurs, and jabbed in the mouth with a double bridle. The video of this went “viral” and around the world many people asked the question as to why the combination was not stopped for the sake of the horse.

This is not an issue confined to the USA.

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I, JODY HARTSTONE

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role) N/A

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch – supported by Dressage Bay of Plenty

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed _____

JODY HARTSTONE

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: Article 477 (Saddlery) 4.10

NEW RULE

Add/Amend /Delete

That Article 477 (Saddlery) 4.10 be deleted and replaced with:

REMIT: That all Dressage New Zealand stewards be provided with an approved Noseband Taper Gauge in order to test the tightness of nosebands in an equitable way. This Noseband Taper Gauge needs to be used on the Nasal Planum (front of nose) to ensure that there is room for two fingers placed beside each other horizontally underneath the noseband.

Stewards MAY check noseband tightness at any time during an event. Any official / judge can ask a steward to check the tightness of a horse's noseband at any time during an event. If the noseband is found to be too tight before a dressage test has been ridden, the rider will be given the opportunity to loosen the noseband until it is of the correct tightness.

If the rider is found to have ridden a horse/pony in a test with a noseband tighter than set out in the guidelines for the Noseband Taper Gauge, they will be eliminated from that test.

Stewards MUST check noseband tightness using the taper gauge at all mandatory inspections.

(Please see photos attached demonstrating use of Noseband Taper Gauge)

Email to dressage@nzquestrian.org.nz by 5th March



1 and 2 finger
measurement line

(100mm lines to
measure curb
length on reverse)



RATIONALE: (Add separate pages or attachments if necessary)

Please see attached information from the International Society for Equitation Science.

It has been scientifically proven that restrictive nosebands have negative implications for horse welfare. Furthermore the FEI rule on tight nosebands does not go far enough as it has been proven that even the very tightest of nosebands will meet the current FEI criteria of ONE FINGER BESIDE THE CHEEK.

This is an opportunity for Dressage New Zealand to help lead the way for a more ethical and sustainable sport, and addresses an issue which negatively impacts on horse welfare within the sport.

Email to dressage@nzquestrian.org.nz by 5th March



ISES position statement on restrictive nosebands

Background

Extreme tightening of the noseband may force the mucous membranes lining the cheek against the molar teeth and is thought to increase the bitted horse's compliance and responsiveness to rein pressure, perhaps by sensitising its mouth (Randle & McGreevy, 2011). This may advantage the rider since the horse appears to achieve a lighter rein contact, colloquially referred to as becoming more 'submissive'. However, tightening the noseband is likely to mask the horse's natural comfort-seeking responses by restricting jaw and tongue movements that disclose resistance and behavioural conflict.

Recent evidence suggests that horses wearing tight nosebands undergo a physiological stress response, are sensitised to bit pressure and may have reduced blood flow (McGreevy et al., 2012). Consequently, on welfare grounds, the use of nosebands that constrict with potential to cause injuries should not be permitted in training or competition.

Tight nosebands can mask unwanted behaviour in horses, which might be indicative of either pain or deficiencies in training, or, indeed, both. Consequently, the loosening of nosebands might reveal undesirable responses that could be dangerous to riders and other horse-rider combinations. Riders should therefore rule out any pain-related issues in their horses and ensure that their horses are trained according to principles of learning theory to meet the demands of competition.

In most equestrian disciplines, gear stewards check that all equipment used on horses competing complies with the specified regulations. By implementing a process that can be used to remove or loosen tight nosebands, stewards could ensure that the detrimental effects of these devices could be eliminated or at least lessened.

Furthermore, it is an established principle of ethical equitation that the horse's relaxation must be benchmarked (McGreevy & McLean, 2007; ISES, 2011). This entails training lightness of rein contact by carefully eliminating expressions of mouth discomfort such as opening, gaping or crossing the jaw. Indeed, in the same vein, some equestrian manuals and competition rule books propose that 'two fingers' be used as a spacer to guard against over-tightening, but fail to specify where this gauge should be applied or, indeed, the size of the fingers. The dimensions of average adult first and index fingers at the second joint are: 1.59 × 3.87 × 9.89 cm (McGreevy et al., 2012). This amount of space under the noseband allows horses to express conflict behaviour and so aligns with the principles of ethical equitation. That said, it does not permit horses to perform the full repertoire of behaviours, including yawning (McGreevy et al., 2012).

Recommendation

- ISES recommends that all equestrian sports should require that the tightness of any noseband is checked by a steward at the nasal midline (see Fig.1).
- For fairness and objectivity, a taper gauge inserted under the noseband should be used for this purpose. The gauge should be placed without force and be clearly marked to show the desired stop which, in alignment with established industry guidance, should be the dimensions of two average adult fingers. Riders should be advised and encouraged to use the same gauge in practice.

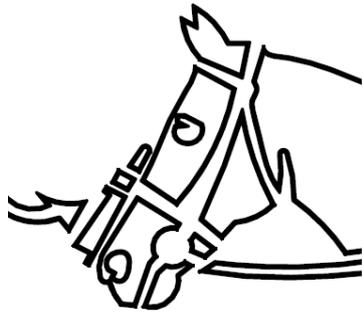


Figure 1.

References

- ISES (The International Society for Equitation Science) 2011. Training principles: does your training system stand the test of science? <http://www.equitation-science.com/news.html>. Accessed 7th Dec 2011.
- McGreevy P.D., McLean, A.N. 2007. The roles of learning theory and ethology in equitation. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*. 2, 108-118.
- McGreevy, P., Warren-Smith, A., Guisard, Y. 2012. The effect of double bridles and jaw-clamping crank nosebands on facial cutaneous and ocular temperature in horses. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*. Accepted.
- Randle, H., McGreevy, P.D. 2011. The effect of noseband tightness on rein tension in the ridden horse. Proceedings of the 7th International Equitation Science Conference, Eds: M. van Dierendonck, P. de Cocq, K. Visser, Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen. 84.

DRESSAGE NZ PLANNING FORUM 2018

REMIT: AMENDMENT TO DRESSAGE RULES



I, Alicia Zeludko

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch - **North Island Riders Representative**

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER :

NEW RULE

That New Zealand Dressage Stewards be provided with an approved Noseband Taper Gauge so that noseband tightness can be checked in a systematic way without any room for subjectivity.

RATIONALE:

It has been scientifically proven that tight nosebands have a detrimental effect on the horse.

The noseband taper gauge will give officials a means to test without negotiation or argument from riders.

It was noted that there were some issues surrounding the taper gauge use – it is only designed for use with a cavesson noseband, and the use of it for stewards for some sensitive type horses may be problematic – however these should not be barriers to stop its introduction and use.

It does not remove the stewards ability to check the noseband tightness by other means, but is another tool they can rely upon (although it would be preferable to use the taper gauge on all horses competing in double bridles to avoid any contentious areas).



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I, Alicia Zeludko

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch - **North Island Riders Representative**

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER :

NEW RULE??

That prizegiving's are only held no earlier than 30 minutes after the official results of a class are posted.

RATIONALE:

Riders do not have the opportunity to protest (if necessary) any irregularities in their test sheets if prizegiving's are held before test sheets are made available.

Whilst this to not a common occurrence, riders should be given the opportunity to check test sheets or protest if necessary prior to a prizegiving. This came to light at Horse Of The Year 2018 for two competitors.

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I, Alicia Zeludko

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch - **North Island Riders Representative**

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 473(4)(4.1) Arena Familiarisation

All arena familiarisation is under the jurisdiction and control of the OC and should be advertised in the schedule prior to the event. Arena familiarisation is defined as permission to work around the outside of the competition arena, unless the OC has stated this is allowed under Article 473.1.

AMENDMENT

All arena familiarisation is under the jurisdiction and control of the OC and should be advertised in the schedule prior to the event. Arena familiarisation is defined as permission to work (**work defined as walk trot and canter**) around the outside of the competition arena, unless the OC has stated this is allowed under Article 473.1.

RATIONALE:

There continues to be a large proportion of riders who wish to see arena familiarisation include walk trot and canter (as opposed to just walk). If an amendment is made to the rule to define work as walk trot and canter then this would mean that all and any riders could use arena familiarisation in the manner they wish to.

O/C's who are concerned regarding safety could consider having a separate time for arena familiarisation for those combinations who do just want to walk.

Riders are very appreciative of any arena familiarisation that they get, and understand OC's have commitments regarding arena presentation and quality.

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I, Alicia Zeludko

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) YES

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch - **North Island Riders Representative**

Request that this remit be put forward to the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

NEW RULE

To be under Article 477 – Saddlery

For the purposes of safety, horses known to kick are permitted and encouraged to wear a red ribbon in their tail at all times whilst being ridden and/or handled except in actual competition. Young or green horses are permitted to wear a green ribbon whilst being ridden and/or handled except in actual competition.

RATIONALE:

Currently there is no way of identifying horses that are known to kick or that are green and whose riders may not appreciate other horses passing by closely. There have been occasions where horses have kicked out at others in close proximity, and likewise of green horses getting a fright due to other riders passing by too closely.

It is not the fault of those riders on those horses as they have no way apart from yelling out to other riders that they need to have some space.

For the safety of all combinations introducing a system that can identify combinations with these issues would be appreciated.

We currently identify stallions by stallion tags, and yet some stallions are probably safer than some hormonal mares and / or young green horses.

DRESSAGE NZ PLANNING FORUM 2018

AGENDA ITEM / PROPOSAL



I, .BETTY BROWN.....(name)

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....AREA DELEGATE.....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role).....YES FEI JUDGE.....

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch.....AMDG.....

Request that this topic/proposal be added to the agenda of the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

TOPICS

STALLIONS

1. Stallions – grazing:

Need a discussion on safety at events for grazing stallions.

Recommendation: Perhaps a closed in area is required for safety reasons, to prevent risk to other competitors and horses.

PONY STALLIONS

2. Pony Stallions – At an event recently, there was a child riding a Pony Stallion on the grounds.

Recommendation - An age limit be imposed of???.(have no idea – needs discussion).

KAREN SHIELDS, PRESIDENT, AMDG, WILL SPEAK TO THIS.

Email to dressage@nzquestrian.org.nz by 5th March

DRESSAGE NZ PLANNING FORUM 2018

AGENDA ITEM / PROPOSAL



I, .BETTY BROWN.....(name)

Dressage NZ Committee member: (Specify role).....AREA DELEGATE.....

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role)....YES.....FEI JUDGE.....

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch.....AMDG.....

Request that this topic/proposal be added to the agenda of the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

TOPIC: New Judges (List 5).

Could there be a development plan to allow those interested in becoming a List 5 judge to judge a Level 1 class alone on local days. This would be for someone who had done for example some Pony Club or Dressage judging elsewhere and attended Dressage Clinics.

It is very difficult for AMDG OC to have a List 2 or above on Level 1 and Level 2 classes as they are required to judge the higher grade classes.

Auckland had 5 trainee judges at beginning of the year but most found it too difficult to continue

KAREN SHIELDS, PRESIDENT, AMDG, WILL SPEAK TO THIS.

Email to dressage@nzquestrian.org.nz by 5th March

DRESSAGE NZ PLANNING FORUM 2018

AGENDA ITEM / PROPOSAL



I Janine van der Horst

Dressage NZ Committee member: - Dressage Bay of Plenty Delegate

Full Financial Member ESNZ (specify any official role) Yes

Specify if on behalf of an official Dressage Group or Branch Dressage Bay of Plenty

Request that this topic/proposal be added to the agenda of the 2018 Dressage NZ Planning forum:

Signed.....

TOPIC: Venue for NZ Dressage National Championships

Dressage BOP requests that the issue of the venue for the annual Dressage national championships show be discussed at the 2018 Planning Meeting, and a decision on this reached at the 2018 AGM.

We are strongly of the view that the best option for this event is for it to be held at the Taupo National Equestrian Centre. There has been much discussion on this in recent years, and now that the indoor arena and associated facilities are near completion, the decision for DNZ to host the national championships there must be made.

Proposal and / or Rationale for Forum Discussion:

The rationale is as follows:

- 1 The Taupo NEC is owned by Equestrian Sports NZ and has been developed in order to further equestrian sports at the highest level, and as such there is an obligation on the disciplines to make as much use of it as possible. Holding the most important show of the dressage calendar at the Taupo NEC showcases the level of excellence in both competition and infrastructure that has been achieved.
- 2 Cost – (a) the cost to hire the Taupo NEC indoor arena is better than that offered at the current alternative site in Feilding; and (b) the payment goes directly to an ESNZ-owned facility and is thereby channelled back into the sport rather than being paid to a completely separate entity.
- 3 Location – the Taupo NEC is centrally located and easily travelled to by the vast majority of competitors.
- 4 Facilities – the yarding and stabling facilities at the Taupo NEC are consistently of a high standard and are constantly well maintained and improved where possible. The riding surfaces (both grass and sand) are also of a very high standard and are also very well maintained. The new indoor arena surface has been met with nothing but praise by those who have ridden/competed on it already. The offices, conference room, kitchen, showers and toilets in the new building are being completed, and will be ready for use within a few months. The

Email to dressage@nzequestrian.org.nz by 5th March

current office etc in the Charisma Hall is also of a completely useable and comfortable standard. The camping, accommodation and ablution facilities are of a high standard.

- 5 Other large shows held at the Taupo NEC attract good levels of sponsorship and interaction with Sponsors at the events.
- 6 Taupo is around 15km from the NEC, and has many accommodation options available for judges and other officials, including Book A Bach houses that are utilised for shows such as the annual Dressage BOP Premier League Show.
- 7 Travel to and from the region is simple, with regular flights into either Taupo or Rotorua, which is around an hour away by car.
- 8 There is a large pool of volunteers available to assist at shows at the NEC, with members of the BOP Clubs (Rotorua, Taupo, Tauranga & Eastern Bays), and the Waikato region within close proximity.
- 9 The Taupo NEC is a purpose built equestrian facility with no other activities or industries within close proximity which have the potential to interrupt or disrupt the events being run there.

(Add separate pages or attachments if necessary)

Email to dressage@nzequestrian.org.nz by 5th March