

MINUTES`

**67th Annual Dressage NZ AGM & Conference
Saturday 6 July 2024 - 9.00am - 4.00pm
Rydges Hotel – Federal St - Auckland**



DRESSAGE

1. WELCOME / ROLL CALL / APOLOGIES

Present:

Sue Hobson |Chair

Welcome & Conference procedure/standing orders

Dressage NZ Board:

Suzanne Inglis, Judith Cunningham, Christine Latch

ESNZ: Warrick Allan, Eliza Johns, Jo Collin, Ange Kelly-Smith (for some agenda items only)

In attendance:

Jos Gresham (Calendar / Series Points/Conference Asst)

Judy Collin (Conference Asst & Minute Secretary)

Voting Delegates Registered			Members / Observers Registered		
1	Andrea Fuehrer	Waitemata	29	Jos Gresham	Calendar / Series Pts
2	Anna Gale	SI Riders Rep	30	Karen Shields	AMDG
3	Barbara Clarke	Bay of Plenty	31	Kate Walker	Waitemata
4	Bernice Frost	Taihape	32	Jane Robertson	Canterbury
5	Carol Eivers	Northern Hawke's Bay	33	Mura Love	Canterbury
6	Fiora Au	NI Riders Rep	34	Vaughn Cooper	Central Districts
7	Jackie Thomas	Otago	35	Betty Brown	Auckland
8	Jacqui Thompson	Wellington	36	Ian Childs	Wellington
9	Julia Latham	Southland	37	Leonie Coker	Bay of Plenty
10	Kylie Littleford	Taranaki			
11	Lois Andrewes	Northland			
12	Margaret Grant	Canterbury			
13	Meg Johnston	Youth Council Member			
14	Nicola Essex	Waikato			
15	Nicole Ostermeier	Sth Cant/Nth Otago			
16	Olivia Goggin	Ashburton			
17	Pip Forsyth	Marlborough			
18	Angela Valentine	Nelson			
19	Rachel McCallum	Steward General			
20	Rosie Richards	Auckland-Manukau			
21	Sue Harris	Gisborne			
22	*Sue Hobson	Southern Hawkes Bay			
23	Susan Tomlin	Central Districts			
24	Suzanne Halligan	Wairarapa			
25	*Sue Hobson	Board – Chair			
26	Suzanne Inglis	Board - Technical			
27	Judith Cunningham	Board - Judges			
28	Christine Latch	Board / Sponsorship Manager			

Apologies:

Andrea Raves & Sarah Hazlewood (Board)
 Glenda Jones (SI NEC Rep), Jennifer Millar C.N.Z.M. (ESNZ Patron), Jacqui Winspear,
 Linda Warren-Davey, Wendy Hamerton, Helen Hughes-Keen (Delayed)

That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Carol Eivers
 Seconded: Rachel McCallum

CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 66th Annual Dressage Conference, held on Saturday 1st July 2023 at the Rydges Latimer Square, Christchurch, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record

Moved: Christine Latch
 Seconded: Suzanne Inglis

CARRIED

Matters Arising: Nil

3. COMMITTEE 2024/25**Area Delegates, Riders Representatives, Steward General:**

The following have been submitted by ESNZ Dressage Area Groups & Island Riders Rep Nominations, Board Appointment for confirmation by the Conference.

(N) = New delegate

Northland	Lois Andrewes	Wellington	Jacqui Thompson (N)
Waitemata	Andrea Fuehrer	Wairarapa	Tracey Cooper
Auckland	Rosie Richards	Nelson	Angela Valentine
Waikato	Nicola Essex (N)	Marlborough	Pip Forsyth
Bay of Plenty	Barbara Clarke (N)	Canterbury	Lauren Haig
Gisborne	Sue Harris	Ashburton	Olivia Goggin
Nth Hawke's Bay	Genevieve Quin	Sth Cant/Nth Otago	Nicole Ostermeier (N)
Sth Hawke's Bay	Rachel Fouhy	Otago	Jackie Thomas
Taihape	Bernice Frost	Southland	Julia Latham (N)
Taranaki	Kylie Littleford(N)	Nth Is Rider Rep	Fiora Au
Central Districts	Susan Tomlin	Sth Is Rider Rep	Anna Gale
Steward General	Rachel McCallum	Youth Council Rep	Meg Johnston

Delegate Substitutes at the meeting:

Carol Eivers for Genevieve Quin (NHB), Sue Hobson for Rachel Fouhy (SHB), Margaret Grant for Lauren Haig (Canterbury) Suzanne Halligan for Tracey Cooper (Wairarapa)
 Suzanne Inglis for Andrea Raves (Board), Christine Latch for Sarah Hazelwood (Board)

That the Dressage Committee 2024/25 be confirmed

Moved: Vaughan Cooper
 Seconded: Rachel McCallum

CARRIED

4. APPOINTMENTS & BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES 2024/25 & 2024/26

The meeting noted the following:

Judges Officer & Sub-Committee (As per the JSC Terms of Reference)

Mura Love was appointed to the JSC **2022 - 2025** as the only EOI for the position Mura has been nominated as Judges Officer 2024 -27 (only nomination – to be ratified at conference). Mary Craine 3yr term on JSC completed in 2024 and is eligible for reappointment. Three EOI have been received for the JSC for two places. Co-opting is possible. These appointments will be made following the ratification of the Judges Officer position.

2023/2024 Performance & Development Committee

Andrea Raves (Chair)

Margs Carline (Chair of Selectors - until Dec 2024), Debbie Barke (Riders Rep Until 2024) & has applied for a further two-year term until 2026

Coach Rep: Barbara Chalmers until 2025

PD Administrator: Jennifer Wood (by DC appointment)

Note: Performance Committee has power to co-opt.

2024/26 Island Pony & Young Rider Development Convenors:

These have been confirmed as Georgia Paul (NI) & Naomi Murfitt (SI)

2024/25 NI & SI ESNZ Equestrian Centre Representatives: Jon Williamson & Glenda Jones

Jon & Glenda have indicated they are interested in continuing for a further year

2024 ESNZ AGA Dressage Delegates: To be appointed by new Board following Dressage AGM

Appointment of Patron: Not discussed at this time.

The Chair advised Judith Cunningham is standing down from her current Judges Officer position but will remain on the Board until the end of the Conference. That Mura Love will commence the role at the Sunday 7th July committee meeting

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no specific AGM correspondence.

Scrutineers Appointed:

It was agreed Jane Robertson and Jos Gresham to act as voting scrutineers.

6. 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS

6.1: DRESSAGE NZ CHAIR

Sue Hobson

That the Chair Report be taken as read

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Carole Eivers

CARRIED

6.2: DRESSAGE NZ SPORT MANAGER

Wendy Hamerton

The SM was absent owing to unforeseen personal circumstances. There were no questions from the floor.

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Rachel McCallum

CARRIED

6.3: FINANCE OFFICER

Sarah Hazelwood

Christine answered queries from the floor in the absence of the FO.

In answer to a query from B Brown, C Latch confirmed Pony Club presently pay the \$5 centreline fee when using DNZ tests. Christine will check that fees are paid for non-graded tests as well.

Ian asked if PC paid the centreline fee as well as a start fee. Christine will clarify this.

S Inglis asked Judges to note Art 105 in General Regs regarding sanctioned events.

Judges should check an ESNZ show is sanctioned when using DNZ tests, to protect our intellectual property.

That the Finance report be adopted

Moved: Suzanne Inglis

Seconded: Judith Cunningham

CARRIED

6:4 TECHNICAL OFFICER

Suzanne Inglis

Suzanne(TO) spoke to her report and thanked Fiora for her work with formatting this and Rachel for technical advice.

I Childs suggested Judges double check Article No. in rule book and note on test when giving a penalty. The TO recommended judges have a copy of the table in front of them to refer to - page 39 & 40 of the Rule Book.

In answer to a query from B Brown, the TO advised that the yellow card (warning) system was still in place but they are looking at simplifying this system.

Rachel (McCallum – Steward General) advised the Event Ground Jury can deal with any incidents and suggested that a Ground Jury should be appointed for local show days as well. The TO agreed

That the Technical Officers report be adopted

Moved: Suzanne Inglis

Seconded: Nicole Ostermeier

CARRIED

6:5 NATIONAL JUDGES OFFICER

Judith Cunningham

The NJO spoke to her report and also thanked Fiora for updating technical manual for Judges.

Ian thanked Judith for acknowledging bereavements and retirements.

Correction to report under retirements – Dana Hazard is Taranaki - not Marlborough Area

S Hobson and C L Latch thanked Judith for her work and time in this position. Judith added to her report that the Judges clinics are continuing all through winter.

Sue encouraged judges to attend both days as different levels on each day.

That the Judges Officer report be adopted

Moved: Judith Cunningham

Seconded: Sue Harris

CARRIED

6.6 PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Andrea Raves (Chair)

The Chair thanked Andrea for huge amount of work on development of riders.

That the Development Officer report be adopted

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Leonie Coker

CARRIED

6.7 ESNZ HIGH PERFORMANCE

High Performance members joined the meeting at 11.12 (Item 11 on page 16)

That the High Performance report be taken as read

Moved: Carol Eivers

Seconded: Suzanne Inglis

CARRIED

6:8 SELECTORS REPORT

Margs Carline (CHAIR)

Amendment - Page 24, Para 4 remove **** and following wording

That the Selectors report be adopted with this amendment

Moved: Leonie Coker

Seconded: Vaughan Cooper

CARRIED

6:9 DRESSAGE STEWARD GENERAL REPORT

Rachel McCallum

The SG advised there will be Stewards Clinics soon.

That the Steward General report be adopted

Moved: Rachel McCallum

Seconded: Jos Gresham

CARRIED

6:10:1 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS // SPONSORSHIP

Christine Latch

C Latch advised that Sponsorship is much more difficult in this present economic climate. DNZ have lost some sponsors but gained new ones.

Sue Hobson advised that Class 4 Gaming Trust grants are greatly reduced from previous years.

Jackie Thomas asked if sponsors could take the time to acknowledge riders for their appreciation.

Julia Latham also asked if riders could be encouraged to purchase the sponsor's products.

These suggestions were noted by Christine.

That the Marketing/Comms sponsorship report be adopted

Moved: Christine Latch

Seconded: Suzanne Inglis

CARRIED

6.11 South Island Rider Representative Report

Anna Gale (Committee)

The SI Rider Rep report was taken as read

That the SI Rider Rep report be adopted

Moved: Anna Gale

Seconded: Angela Valentine

CARRIED

6:12 North Island Rider Representative

Fiora Au

Jackie Thompson raised the point that the membership of many area groups was small.

After a query from the Chair, it was apparent most areas were experiencing difficulty in keeping volunteers.

C Latch suggested breaking jobs down into smaller time frames which may encourage people to commit their time.

That the NI Rider Rep report be adopted

Moved: Fiora Au

Seconded: Nicole Ostermeier

CARRIED

6:13 (1) Taupo Equestrian Centre DNZ Representative

Jon Williamson

The Steward General expressed her regret that Logan and Karen had left the NEC .

B. Brown asked if there is a possibility of getting lighting in the covered yard area. The Chair advised they are looking into and added it was a safety issue. Jon Williamson arrived later in the meeting and addressed queries raised.

6:13 (2) McLeans Is Equestrian Centre DNZ Representative

Glenda Jones

Moved that Equestrian Centre reports for North and South Island be accepted

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Margaret Grant

CARRIED

6:14 Youth Council Annual Report

Meila Picard & Anna Wilson

The Committee Youth Rep, Meg Johnston advised there would be four new members appointed to the Council this year.

That the Youth Council report be adopted

Moved: Meg Johnstone

Seconder: Anna Gale

CARRIED

6:15 Bates National Championships

Cassie Freeman – Event Manager

The Chair thanked Cassie Freeman for doing a brilliant job. C Latch also thanked Cassie for her positivity and approachability.

That the National Championships report be adopted

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Christine Latch

CARRIED

6:16: Evo Events Youth Festival

Angela Nobile – Event Manager

The Youth Festival report was taken as read

That the Youth Festival report be adopted

Moved: Kate Walker

Seconded: Judith Cunningham

CARRIED

Carol Eivers reported that strategic changes to HOY Dressage are being discussed locally for mid-longer term. This includes 5 dressage arenas on surface, moving Dressage to one part of the grounds (ie not using the Polo Grounds) . This may require an increase in qualification % if less horses can be accommodated. Grandstand has been demolished.

That the Horse of the Year Show report be adopted

Moved: Carol Eivers

Seconded: Barbara Clarke

CARRIED

7. FEES 2024/2025

As discussed at Dressage Planning Meeting & approved by ESNZ Board July 2024

Dressage Annual\l Start Fee

Level 1 & Above: No Change \$75.00

Level 2 & Above: \$10 Increase to \$125.00

TD Levies (Centre Line per Start Fee

\$5.00 per start all events classifications

Levies are payable by all competitions Graded & Non-Graded. These are payable by Groups, Branches, Associated Events, NZPCA "open" events using ESNZ tests & rules

Noted that ESNZ insurance costs have increased.

8. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

8.1 JUDGES OFFICER – ELECTION

Mura Love elected unopposed as Judges Officer effective from 7 July 2024.

The Chair asked Mura to address the group and welcomed Mura to the Board.

8.2 Election of Committee Representative to Appointment Panel

Debra Cowen was confirmed as Committee Representative on the Appointment Panel being the only nominee

8.3 Election of North Island Rider Rep

Fiora Au was confirmed as North Island Rider Rep being the only nominee.

8.4 Election of South Island Rider Rep

Anna Gale was confirmed as South Island Rider Rep being the only nominee

APPOINTMENT OF FINANCE OFFICER

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

The 2023 Conference moved that there be no limit to the number of three-year terms the Finance Officer may carry out.

This change to By-law 17 was proposed to the ESNZ Board for ratification

The ESNZ Board has suggested/requested an amendment that the terms of Dressage Board appointment align with ESNZ Board procedure of a maximum three x three year terms and that this apply to all Dressage Board members.

Dressage has requested that this apply immediately to the position of Finance Officer being this is the only position affected in 2024 and that consideration for further change be considered in 2025

There is only one EOI for the position of Finance Officer for the term 2024-27.

That the amendment be approved and the FO have a maximum 3 x 3 year term

Moved: Sue Hobson

Seconded: Nicole Ostermeier

CARRIED

9. GENERAL BUSINESS – Afternoon Session

Paris Olympics Update
Pinnacle Event Calendar
Draft Strategic Plan
SLO Update
Volunteer Engagement

10. REMITS

1.CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 417.1

REMIT: change wording

A whip may be carried in any test of any level, including FEI tests, at any event, ridden under ESNZ Dressage rules

For all competitions run under FEI rules, refer to the FEI rules

RATIONALE:

To make it clearer, so the whip rule is the same for all ESNZ dressage competitions on the calendar, remove confusion.

CARRIED

2. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 420.3 STIRRUPS

Amend to ALIGN with FEI rules

REMIT: Delete words current rule

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.

~~Delete – inside or~~

Against: Susan Tomlin

CARRIED

3. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 422 - REINS

Remit: Amend wording

A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. 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. *Rein additions or attachments, including knots, coloured tape or loops are not permitted without a Dressage NZ approved dispensation under Article 413*

CARRIED

4. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 423 EAR HOODS

REMIT:

Ear hoods are permitted for events and may also provide noise reduction. Padded ear hoods must not have extra padding added into the ears, the ears must be allowed to move freely, anything that impedes free movement of ears is not allowed. Ear hoods must not cover the horse's eyes and should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods must not be attached to the noseband. Ear plugs are not permitted with the exception of Article 423.3.

Against: Julia Latham

CARRIED

5. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 429 & 431 PENALTIES

REMIT: Add to current rule

Add

Penalty for rider presenting in space around arena and/or inside the competition arena without two Identification numbers (one on each side of horse) or back number (if applicable), minus 2 penalty points per judge, *at the discretion of the Chief Judge.*

RATIONALE: To keep in line with other penalties for incorrect gear or dress

Against: Jacqui Thomas, Julia Latham, Susan Tomlin, Olivia Ashburton. Anna Gale.

CARRIED

6. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 441.3 FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER – updated explanation

REMIT: Amend wording and add

Current rule

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.

1. **Amendment to 441.3**

.....medical service before the athlete ~~he/she~~ may be permitted ~~to take part in the next round or competition at the event.~~ *to remount and continue to participate in the event and /or competition.*

Note: Under our rules a medical service must always be available

2. **Addition to rule**

If an athlete, having had a fall, remounts or leaves the grounds without first having a medical check, they may, at the discretion of the Ground Jury be given a verbal warning, an ESNZ Official warning or a fine not exceeding \$100.

CARRIED

7. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 454.3 Updated Explanation

REMIT: Amend current wording

Current rule

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.

Change wording of rule

If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an Event for any reason other than (~~for any reason other than injury or illness~~ a special competition/s, Art 407, 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 by the TD or Ground Jury~~. Refer to Article 412 - Competing "Hors Concours" for other restrictions.

RATIONALE:

Remove wording, as there is no qualifying statement as to who makes the ruling.

Add wording, as it should be TD or GJ who make the decision

CARRIED

8. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 470.7.3 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION - JUDGES

Addition

REMIT: Amend current wording

Judges may use electronic communications (walkie talkies or phones) to confer over missed movements or issues in a musical freestyle class only

RATIONALE:

It can use up a lot of time when judges all must get out of the cars to discuss missed movements, and it's a more discreet way of dealing with it, when everyone stays in their cars or boxes. More official friendly in inclement weather if an outdoor competition, and more discreet for any audience

Against: Kylie Littleford

CARRIED

9. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 486.4 ARENA FAMILIARISATION

REMIT: Add to current rule

Any person leading a horse in an arena familiarisation, ~~must be wearing a correctly fitted, yellow tagged helmet~~ **currently ESNZ approved tagged** and approved helmet.

All horses being lead ~~must be wearing a bridle with a permitted bit~~, and with two bridle numbers. A newmarket lead may replace the reins for this purpose.

RATIONALE:

For safety purposes, ~~riders are more likely to get kicked when walking round in a big group~~, and horses are easier to control when in a bridle.

Against: Julia Latham, Kylie Littleford, Margaret Grant, Susan Tomlin, Bernice Frost

CARRIED

10. ESNZ By Law No.17 Dressage NZ Rules For Administration

Amend

REMIT: Change Steward General term (clause 20.a)

Change the term of a Steward General from being appointed annually to every three years.

Amended By-law For ESNZ approval

20. DRESSAGE STEWARD GENERAL

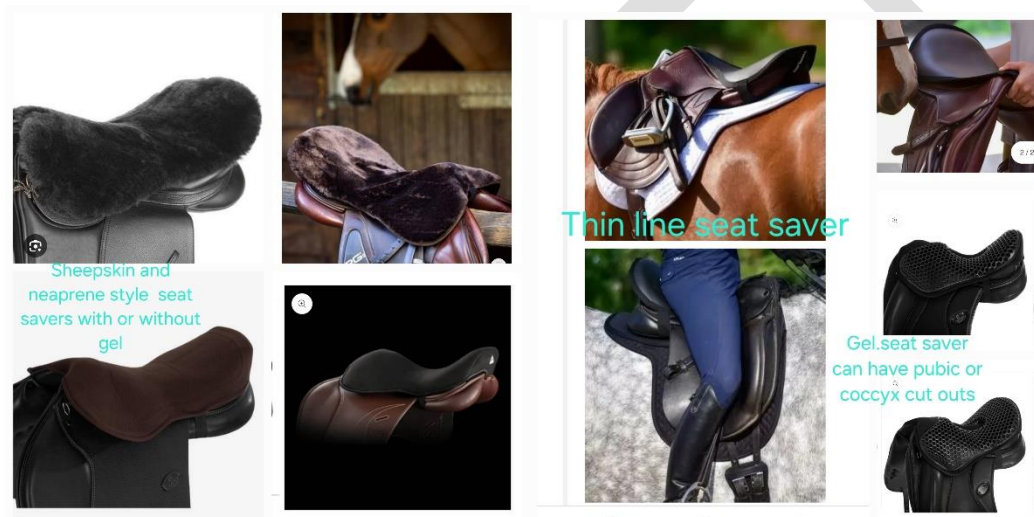
- a. A Steward General for Dressage will be appointed by the Board of Dressage every three years annually.

CARRIED

11. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 420.6 seat savers not allowed without dispensation

Amend 420.6 Seat savers are allowed. Seat savers must be dark coloured and only cover the seat of the saddle

Examples of permitted seat savers



Against: Julia Latham, Rachel McCallum, Angela Valentine, Nicole Ostermeier, Olivia Goggin, Andrea Fuehrer. Judith Cunningham

Penalty guide needed for incorrect seat saver to be included in rule book

CARRIED

12. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 405 AGE OF HORSES

Amend

REMIT: That the minimum age for competing a horse be changed from 3 years of age to 4 years of age based on official age of Southern Hemisphere horses of 1 Aug and Northern Hemisphere 1 January

CARRIED

13. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 422.1 NOSEBANDS

Amend

REMIT: The use of a noseband on the bridle is optional at all levels

422.1

Introductory to Medium: A plain snaffle bridle is required to be used. A noseband is not compulsory but if a noseband is used it must be 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.

422.2 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 optional for FEI tests under national rules.

Against: Julia Latham, Olivia Goggin

CARRIED

14. SCORING of PENALTIES & ERRORS

REMIT: Add to current rule

All FEI tests should use same scoring system run under both national rules and FEI rules

For all ESNZ Dressage tests – errors of test no change

1st error - Minus two (2) points per judge.

2nd error - Minus four (4) points per error

3rd error - Elimination

Penalties – Minus two (2) points per penalty (not cumulative).

Note: Reason must be given on test paper as per which rule applied

Penalties are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (incl Freestyles Test). [No change](#)

For all FEI tests run under FEI or ESNZ rules

As per the FEI test sheets: - zero point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted per fault by each Judge, but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests):

To be deducted / penalty points

Errors of course are penalised

1st error = 2 percentage points

2nd error = Elimination

Other Penalties – Technical faults: 0.5% (percentage points) to be deducted per fault.

CARRIED

15. RIDERS WITH DISPENSATIONS

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 413.5

REMIT: Add to current rule

Riders who hold a current dispensation must wear a DNZ blue disc on their saddle cloth to signify to officials that they have a dispensation for extra equipment and/or allowances for the level they are riding



RATIONALE

To make it clearer to all around for these riders, that they can have extra equipment, and to make it clear to the officials/judges, to check the run sheets for rider specific allowances.

***ACCESSIBILITY TO BADGES**

These will be on the website and able to be downloaded. Riders will laminate them and pin /velcro to saddle cloth.

Clarified – duration is for temporary dispensation is usually twelve months. Consider if permanent that the rider should apply for a Para Classification

Against: Nicole Ostermeier, Olivia Goggin, Susan Tomlin, Suzanne Halligan

CARRIED

16. RULE CHANGES – PROPOSED CYCLE

ESNZ Bylaw 17.23

NEW

REMIT: Add to current rule

Unless for matters of Safety or Horse welfare that Dressage Rule Changes be made on a four Year cycle to align with FEI rules cycles and rules where applicable

**That after ANY 2024 changes, no more changes be made to the rules except relating to safety, horse welfare or alignment with FEI rules, until the year after the next FEI full revision is done in 2026

Against: Susan Tomlin, Julia Latham, Kylie Littleford

CARRIED

17. GRADING, DOWNGRADING & RELATED ART 411

Additions: Horses & Ponies

Level 3/Grade 3

Elementary & FEI Childrens Tests

Level 5 / Grade 5

Advanced Medium & FEI Junior Tests

New

PONIES & PONY RIDERS

Pony Level and grading as Art 410

Ponies graded Level 5 and above may compete in any grade or level of test within Levels 4-9 **ONLY** when ridden by a pony rider

Rationale/Explanation: To align with grading of horses whereby horses can compete in any FEI Level 7-9 without downgrading, ponies can compete at Pony FEI Level (L4) or above without downgrading. Eg a pony graded level 5-9 does not have to be downgraded to compete at Level 4 or above. This encourages the transition from Pony classes to FEI Junior classes where flying changes are required. It follows the same principle as for horses at their highest levels
Ponies graded L5 and above only need to be downgraded to compete in Levels 1-3

DOWNGRADING AMENDMENTS

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 **any HOYS DRESSAGE title classes**, or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ, within 12 months of the downgrading, *including any qualification competition subject to the following*

ADD: Any HOYS title classes for clarity as a lot of questions and confusion about this, especially from multi-discipline pony competitors

Remove deleted words. Rationale: meaning unclear and difficult for OC to police/manage
If qualifications are required for any competition they must simply be gained at the level required

Rename this clause to 411.7

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 **12 months** year of being downgraded.

Delete year and replace with twelve months for clarity and to align with 411.6

Note: The list of ESNZ titles is listed in the ESNZ General Regulations

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/esnz-rules/>

Rationale: Is a natural follow on and further explanation of 411.6

Delete 411.7

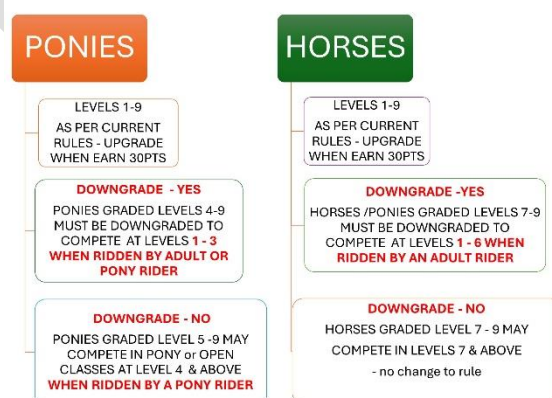
~~411.7 Once a horse or pony has been downgraded, subject to Article 411.5 the horse or pony may not compete with any rider, at any level, in any Island (IGI), National Championship Competition (NCH) or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ within 12 months of the downgrading being approved, regardless of ownership.~~

Rationale: If a horse is sold or leased during the 12 month period the downgrade is automatically revoked and the new rider should immediately be able to compete it at any eligible level any competition. Having been downgraded is no advantage.

411.9

9 The **annual registration fees Dressage Annual Start 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.

Horses or ponies downgraded to Level 1 need only pay Level 1 annual fee at time of next registration owing but after that pay as per graded eligibility



Against: Meg Johnston

CARRIED

18. NUMBER OF JUDGES : Art 471

From the Judges Sub-Committee

At National Championships & named events (HOY) it is proposed to permit a **minimum** of two (2) x judges on classes from Preliminary(L1) up to Advanced (L6) inclusive, rather than 3 x judges per class as is currently required.

Against: Olivia Goggin

CARRIED

6:13 (1) Taupo Equestrian Centre DNZ Representative

Jon Williamson

The Chair welcomed Jon Williamson to the meeting. Jon offered to answer any queries from his report on NEC Taupo. In answer to a query from B Brown, he advised there are ongoing discussions regarding lighting of the covered yards. The Chair advised the FEI rules state the necessity for adequate lighting. Jon will take this information to their next meeting and prioritize this request to the NEC.

Jane Robertson thanked Jon for the new sand on the arena formerly known as the "gravel pit". Jon has requested removable fencing for the Cambridge sand arena.

11. ESNZ UPDATE

Update on ESNZ Projects & High Performance with Warrick Allan (HP Operations Manager) Jo Colin (General Manager Community) Ange Kelly-Smith (General Manager – Finance and Operations)

Jo Collin addressed the meeting:

Covid changed landscape in many ways plus reduced the amount of volunteers. ESNZ recently held successful roadshows and is working on intro starter packs and a volunteer promotion which will be available soon via the newsletter. Attempting to bring all equine organisations together, e.g. harness racing, rodeo, clubs etc, with the social licence. There is a need to show the public that horses are well cared for. Equine health has subcommittee which will lead into the social licence.

Ange Kelly-Smith spoke about Insurance.

Liability insurance is available for affiliated groups. Public Liability is anything causing liability to the public. Incorporated groups should have their own insurance cover. ESNZ sending out survey to Inc Groups. Compiling a list of affiliated clubs.

Financial reporting requirements coming in with new Act. We have until April 2026.

Warwick Allan advised the following apologies

Jock Paget

Penny Pearce

Warwick spoke on Olympic selection and advised process and the need to celebrate Melissa. Disappointed in Social Media which was not helpful and viewed internationally.

Eliza Johns, HP Operations, HP Central

Spoke about the pathway programme focus and how this has been achieved.

Q1: What is Our Why?

Q2: What do we want to DELETE ?

Q3: What do we want to KEEP ?

Q4: What do we want to CREATE ?

Our Values and Culture of Manaaki (reduced to 5!!)

Te orange	Wellbeing Horse & Human
Te whakauru	Inclusion
Ngākau Pono	Integrity
Kairangatira	Excellence

Whakakoha	Respect
Te mahi takaro	Sportsmanship
Aumaiui	Empathy
Te tipuranga	Growth
Tautoko	Support
Whakatapua	Dedication
Hautūtanga	Leadership
Pohonui	Pride
Mahi	Perform

The ESNZ values in the current SSI (Statement of Strategic Intent) are **Integrity, Excellence, Inclusive, Wellbeing Human and Horse**

Action to date:

**** New membership / participation model aligning with other disciplines underway to be announced by ESNZ at beginning of July 24**

1. Work in alignment with the ESNZ HP team to ensure athletes can prepare, qualify and perform in international/global equestrian events, including the World Equestrian Games and the Olympics.
 - Align and communicate clear selection policies, pathways, and nomination and selection processes to HP pathways

Action to date:

****Discussion with ESNZ HP re calendar of international events leading to Aachen 2026**

2. Develop capability and promote excellence across leadership, staff and team support to achieve the highest quality team delivery.
 - Board members to attend Governance training – utilise Board Pro and Sport NZ resources
 - Build a robust induction process for new Board Members, aligned with the ESNZ Board Induction programme.
 - Initiate succession planning for key roles within the organisation
 - Mentor and peer training, sharing of knowledge and experience, document processes and procedures (“under the bus” mindset)
3. Volunteers managed more effectively to retain and build numbers and avoid burnout.

- Actively seek Young Riders and new riders to join our supportive, inclusive Organisation for them to follow pathways that enable riders, officials, staff and volunteers to reach their goals and enjoy the sport of dressage
- Work with/ become a member of “Volunteering NZ” and utilise their resources (Peer Mentoring; Training programmes; Media and Marketing resources to celebrate volunteers within our sport

Action to date:

**** ESNZ Strengthen & Adapt sub-group discussing sport wide volunteer classification, training, support, development & retention**

4. Dressage NZ to take the lead in developing an Equine Welfare charter, policies and processes, aligned with the ESNZ One Voice Charter for the Horse

Action to Date:

**** The SLO Dressage Group formed at Conference 2023 has been active during the year and produced a document for this conference
ESNZ intend a sport wide document be produced in collaboration with the disciplines and other Equine organisations**

- Ensure that Dressage NZ is internationally recognised for our Horse and Rider (and Officials and Volunteers) Welfare program.
5. Ensure financial stability by increasing membership and sponsorship
 - Secure long-term sponsors
 - Apply for sector funding where available
 - Attract and retain members by ensuring we offer world class systems, processes and education in the sport of Dressage

Short Term Goals -

1. Present draft Equine Welfare document to DNZ Conference and Committee meeting – July 2024
2. Secure funding to provide admin support/resource for the Sport Manager
3. Upgrade and deliver ESNZ Coaching programme -
4. Develop Seminar/resource library for Members – in planning stages
5. Secure Prime Ministers Scholarships for five Officials – working with ESNZ
6. Achieve 10% increase in membership (registered horses)? by 2026, by offering more “why” / value
7. Develop data collection re judges performance and activity for purposes of supporting judge development and promotion/upgrading. Concept Draft data has been produced – New JSC to work with SM. Working with ESNZ to simplify uploading of judge promotions to Horse REG
8. Develop as above (7) for stewards and TD’s

Mid Term Goals

1. Send a team to and World Championships Aachen 2026 and qualify for 2028 Olympics
2. Assist three more officials to achieve International level (judges & stewards)
3. Assist 10 more riders to achieve 70% or higher at FEI level
4. Assist 20% more riders to gain 70% in Advanced Medium and above (current stats?)
5. 10% more ESNZ Dressage registered coaches by end of March 2025 **This will also rely on ESNZ investing in a practical and robust ESNZ coaching programme**

Long Term Goals

1. Top eight finish at the 2028 Olympics in LA and Brisbane 2032? **Team and rider into Freestyle = top 15 individual**
2. Increased Financial resources and sustainability is achieved which enables more investment in delivery and development of the sport in NZ.

Feedback workshop:

A high number of participants wished to “delete” G/S/B but there were a couple at the meeting who thought it added real value in the lower grades. Christine will try to ascertain the reasons for dissatisfaction which seemed to mainly be the administering of it and the cost to groups of extra rosettes and championships.

Social media behaviour was also of concern.

Also feedback on:-

Attendees would like transparency in selections.

Items to “Keep” included education, NEC, respect, conference.

Items to “Create” included – young people into official pathways, better facilities, rider camps, library of resources online, area delegate meetings more frequently.

13. SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE July 2024

Sue Hobson

“Social licence is defined as an intangible, implicit agreement between society and an industry which allows that industry (or community) to pursue its activities on a largely self-regulatory basis because such activities have widespread societal approval. Societies’ attitudes are changing and evidencing prioritisation of equine welfare through clearly communicated demonstrable actions is critical to ensure the future of equestrian sport”. (From Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission A GOOD LIFE FOR HORSES - A vision for the future involvement of horses in sport FINAL REPORT – November 2023)

- The 2024 DNZ Board strategy discussion, identified SLO as a Quadrant 2 issue meaning it will have high impact and is relatively easy to progress.
- A sub-committee was formed from those who expressed interest in this topic at the DNZ Committee meeting in July 2023.
- After initial discussions, the sub-committee felt the “Charter for the Horse” should come from ESNZ. I followed up with Jo Colin. ESNZ has been working on a “Charter” and have brought other equestrian organisations on board, including the NZPCA, NZ Rodeo, Royal A & P Society, NZ Polo, NZ Riding Clubs and Bridleways Incorp and the NZRDA
- This Charter is to be sent to the ESNZ Discipline Sports Managers on the 22th May for their discussion and input. (A copy of this charter is attached – I will send the FEI Charter later).
- I discussed with Jo that Dressage wanted to go much further than this. Her reply was “Totally agree on the disciplines having the more comprehensive look into their aspect of SLO, so now we have a wider equine collective around the work and direction, it will be great to drive the more in-depth work and sounds like Dressage are leading the way here.”

- So this affirms that the SLO dressage sub-committee are not working in isolation, but alongside ESNZ and the other disciplines and have a clear mandate to progress this document.
- A concern is the “so what” if you sign the charter? What does it mean, what happens if I don’t do these things? What are the consequences of not signing? What can anyone do? And if something, then by whom?
- I have asked that the sub-committee have a document, at least in DRAFT form, to present to the Conference in July, and an iteration of this be provided for the Board to consider at the in-person meeting on June 6th.
- Sarah Rosanowski has offered to pull the document together as she has these skills (design).
- The biggest opportunity is to provide education and to be able to help people find information. The main places we can cause influence and change are at shows, clinics, conferences and other training events and on FB/Dressage NZ/ESNZ websites.
- Numerous concerns from the latest sub-committee meeting were around horse welfare at events such as HOY, when many more “non-horse” spectators attend. Of greatest concern was the showing fraternity where horses were worked for long periods, some starting at 6.30am, others ridden in draw reins and other non-dressage legal equipment and grooming practices question was asked as to who regulates this group's activities. (A & P?)
- Also discussed was the opportunity to provide training for’s, on how to give feedback to people when they observe unacceptable behaviour, much as the Stewards receive (Jane Robertson was credited with helping Stewards in the area), with the intent to educate, be fair and over time, change behaviour.
- Jody Hartstone, on behalf of the SLO Subcommittee, presented two remits to the planning meeting regarding nosebands and seat savers.

The Dressage SLO Sub-committee:

Linda Warren-Davy (Chair)

Karen Shields

Christine Buchanan

Angela Valentine

Kara Lockhart,

Barbara Clarke,

Jody Hartstone

Sarah Rosanowski

Plus: (haven’t attended the last few meetings)

Bill Noble

Alyssa Harrison

Analise Mackie

Equestrianism must adopt an ethics-based, proactive, progressive, and holistic approach to the protection of equine welfare, to ensure the ongoing trust of all stakeholders, including the public (Douglas et al., 2022)

Sue advised that 1 million Euro had been spent on animal welfare overseas. Everyone involved in the sport needs to be very aware of the public perception. HOY has clause in schedule that warmup may be filmed.

Power point presentation by C Latch .

3.10pm – Helen Hughes-Keen joined the meeting.

14. KEY CALENDAR DATES

Sue Hobson

Calendar of Key Events: NZL

2024: No MER opportunities for WEG 2026 possible between Paris OG & 31 Dec 24

2024: FEI Dressage World Challenge 26/27 September

2025: March MER - Land Rover Horse of the Year Show **(CDI)**

March MER - Bates National Championships **(CDI)**

Nov MER - ? Takapoto **CDI** ? Pacific League **TBC**

2026 : March MER - Land Rover Horse of the Year Show **(CDI)**

March MER - Bates National Championships **(CDI)**

World Championships – Aachen ? August 2026

A meeting with High Performance identified concern re the close proximity of the two NZL based CDI in March and DR was asked to consider alternatives to allow for better preparation of a team .

.....

9. GENERAL BUSINESS – Afternoon Session

Pinnacle Event Calendar

Discussion – The Chair called for ideas from attendees:

Senior riders would prefer CDI's to be spread out to fit in with Australian dates. Possibility of Oct or February dates but need to consider Australian dates.

L Coker suggested booking NEC now for 2025

CDI could possibly be combined with Waikato or BOP champs.

BOP Champs –Could possibly run 1 class a day CDIY, CDIW and juniors, plus Para? Stabling might be an issue. Protocol of running – separate stabling, warmup area and other FEI rules .

Rachel McCallum - Could run a Small Tour (not at BOP). FEI show

After a query from the Chair , most agreed CDI dates should be more spread out.

This could be run as a 4 day show rather than 3 day show.

The Chair voiced some suggestions –

Something in Oct ?

Nationals – before or after HOY?

For South Island riders to do both, it was noted Nationals needs to be close to HOY.

Could we consider the middle of April? Consider Easter dates.

Volunteer Engagement – Christine Latch

At the end of the meeting, C Latch added information on volunteer engagement that had been put forward e.g. Local participation, Retirement homes, Local charity groups. Christine is speaking with volunteer organisations to share a subscription for access to database.