

RULE CHANGE SUMMARY: Dressage NZ Rules Effective v1 Aug 2024

ART 405.4.1 – AGE OF HORSES

405.4.1 A horse must be at least **four** years of age, before competing in any competition run under these Rules.

ART 410 – GRADING OF HORSES & PONIES

410.3 FEI Levels (Grades 7-9) Horses may compete in any grade/level of test within Levels 7-9 at any event regardless of points earned.

410.3.1 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, regardless of points earned.

ART 411 – DOWNGRADING OF HORSES & PONIES

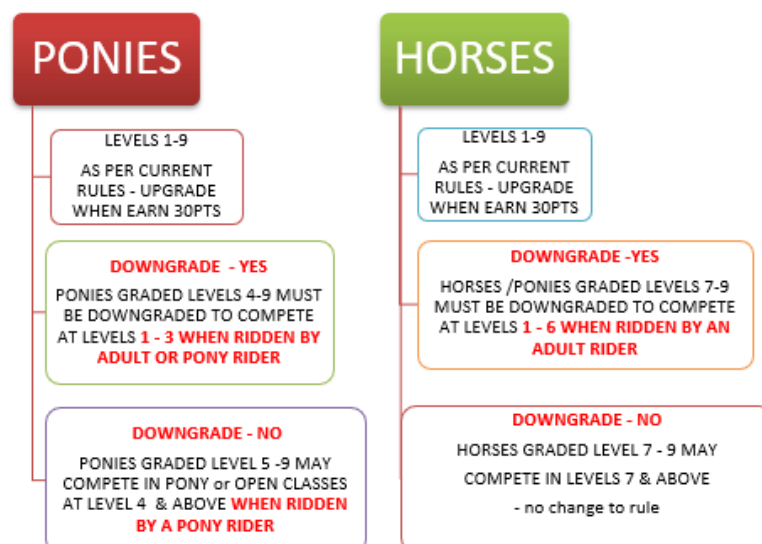
411.6 A downgraded horse or pony may not compete at its original level with the rider who make the application to downgrade, in any class or combination of classes at U25 Championships, Nationals or HOY, which contributes to an ESNZ title, within the first 12 months of being downgraded, or any other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ, without first revoking the downgrade. As per to the following;

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, without first revoking the downgrade in any class or combination of classes at U25 Championships, Nationals or HOY, classes which contributes to an ESNZ title, or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ, with the first 12 months year of being downgraded. Subject to the following;

411.6.1 The rider who requested the downgrading must make an application to revoke the horse or pony's downgrading in accordance with the procedure determined by Dressage NZ for revocation of downgrading; and

411.6.2 If, following the revocation of downgrading the horse or pony receives grading points at the original level, with the rider who made the application to revoke the downgrading, the horse or pony must then remain at the original level with that rider.

411.7 A downgraded horse or pony may compete in any class or combination of classes at either U25 Championships, Nationals or HOY which do not contribute towards an ESNZ title.



ART 413 – RIDERS WITH DISPENSATIONS

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



ART 417 – WHIPS

417.1 A whip may be carried in any test run under ESNZ Dressage Rules

417.1.1 Deleted

417.1.2 Dressage NZ may determine that whips may not be used in competitions but this must be stated in the event schedule.

417.1.3 For YDH rules on whips refer to Annex 7.

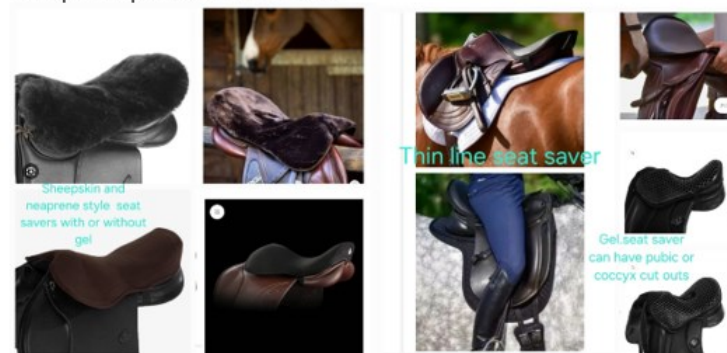
ART 420.3 – STIRRUPS

420.3 Stirrup leathers and English style stirrups or safety stirrups are compulsory and must be attached to the saddle and used in the conventional way. Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the **outside** branch.

ART 420.6 – SEAT SAVERS

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



ART 422 – BRIDLES - REINS

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 Art 413**

ART 422.1 BRIDLES – NOSEBANDS

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 National & FEI tests run under national rules.**

ART 423.3 – EAR HOODS

423.2 Ear hoods are permitted for events and may also provide noise reduction. Padded ear hoods may 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.

ART 429 & 431 – ID NUMBERS AND PENALTIES FOR NON USE

429.6 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.

ART 443.1 – FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER

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 before he/she may be permitted to remount and continue to participate in the event and/or competition.

441.3.1 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

ART 454.3 – PROHIBITED SCHOOLING

If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an Event for any reason other than 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.

ART 470.7.3 – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION – JUDGES

470.7.3 Judges may use electronic communications (walkie talkies or phones) to confer over missed movements or issues for musical freestyle classes only

ART 473 – SCORING

473.8 For all DNZ tests run under ESNZ rules

All penalties given for a DNZ test will be scored as per the ESNZ Dressage rule book and DNZ test papers.

473.9 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):

ART 486.4 – ARENA FAMILIARISATION

486.4.1 - Any person leading a horse in an arena familiarisation, must be wearing a correctly fitted, current ESNZ approved tagged 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.