

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS NEW ZEALAND



RULES OF Para-Equestrian New Zealand

To be used in conjunction with:

The Rules of Dressage New Zealand

**The ESNZ General and Veterinary Regulations and Policies
*and with reference to the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian
Dressage***

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EQUESTRIAN SPORTS NEW ZEALAND RULES FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE EVENTS

PREAMBLE

The first Paralympic Games were held in 1960. In 1989, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was established and in 1991, IPC introduced Equestrian Sport under the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee (IPEC). Para-Equestrians first competed in the Paralympics in 1996. On 1st January 2006 international Para-Equestrian competitions came under the governance of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), except for the Paralympic Games, which remain under the governance of the International Paralympic Committee.

In October 2009 ESNZ adopted Para-Equestrian Dressage as its 5th Discipline.

This is the seventh edition of the ESNZ Para-Equestrian (PE) Rules.

These rules, which are based on FEI Rules governing Para-Equestrian (January 2019), are for domestic ESNZ events within New Zealand. Where FEI Articles are inapplicable to the New Zealand situation they have been omitted and, where appropriate, replaced by rules particular to New Zealand. These rules must be read in conjunction with the General and Veterinary Regulations and Policies of Equestrian Sports New Zealand and the Rules of Dressage New Zealand.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate, and other officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations and Para-Equestrian Rules of ESNZ and the FEI.

International Para-Equestrian events held in New Zealand are to be run under the FEI Para-Equestrian Rules.

Para-Equestrian athletes may compete in able-bodied Dressage New Zealand events using permitted compensating aids (see Rules of Dressage New Zealand Article 483).

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The FEI requires all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount. Welfare of the horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences. The following points must be particularly adhered to:

1. General Welfare:

a) Good Horse Management

Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality forage, feed and water must always be available.

b) Training methods

Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.

c) Farriery and tack

Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.

d) Transport

During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses.

e) Transit

All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with current FEI guidelines.

2. Fitness to compete:

a) Fitness and competence

Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit Horses and Athletes of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest period between training and competitions; additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.

b) Health status

No Horse deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete, veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.

c) Doping and Medication

Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitute a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.

d) Surgical procedures

Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse's welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed.

e) Pregnant/recently foaled mares

Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

f) Misuse of aids

Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.

3. Events must not prejudice Horse welfare:

a) Competition areas

Horses must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles and competition conditions must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind.

b) Ground surfaces

All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injury.

c) Extreme weather

Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the Horse. Provision must be made for cooling conditions and equipment for Horses after competing.

d) Stabling at Events

Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

4. Humane treatment of horses:

a) Veterinary treatment

Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation must be performed.

b) Referral centres

Wherever necessary, Horses should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported.

c) Competition injuries

The incidence of injuries sustained in Competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries.

d) Euthanasia

If injuries are sufficiently severe a Horse may need to be euthanized on humane grounds by a veterinarian as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

e) Retirement

Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from Competition.

5. Education:

The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse.

This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.

CHAPTER I

OBJECT AND PRINCIPLES OF PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE

Article 100 **Object of Para-Equestrian Dressage Events**

1. The object of Para-Equestrian Dressage Events is to provide and develop competition opportunities for equestrian athletes with physical disabilities.

DRESSAGE

Wherever possible the Para-Equestrian athlete should follow the object and general principles of Dressage. However, as athletes with impairments do not have the use of the entire body, all references to the aids must be interpreted to include the use of other parts of the body and/or appropriate and approved compensating aids.

(See also the current edition of FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events, and the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Manual – available on the FEI website: www.fei.org.)

Article 101 **Object and General Principles of Dressage**

To be used in conjunction with:
DNZ Rules Article 401 – 417 & Article 419

Article 118 **The Position and Aids of the Athlete**

Wherever able, the Para-Equestrian athlete should follow the guidelines in this Article.

1. The athlete will try to be well balanced and steady in the saddle, conforming as far as possible to the FEI definition of the athlete's position. This position makes it possible for the athlete to school/ride the horse progressively and correctly showing that all the movements and transitions can be obtained with as little effort of the athlete as possible. The aids which communicate the athlete's wishes to the horse are of great importance in Dressage.

2. Where possible, athletes will ride with both hands at all Para-Equestrian Dressage Events. When leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished his/her performance, the athlete may, at his/her own discretion, ride with only one hand.

2.1. If foot reins are used, neither the hands nor arms may be used.

3. Voice – Athletes in Grades I, II and III may use their voice as an aid whilst riding in their allocated Grade, provided they do so in moderation. Athletes in Grades IV and V may not use their voice at any time during the execution of their test unless stated on the ESNZ Classification Master List and ESNZ Classification Form as a compensating aid. Once a test has started the athlete shall not speak to any other person, unless spoken to by the Judge. Such a fault will be penalised by the deduction of at least of 2 marks by each Judge from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

CHAPTER II

THE HORSE

Article 119 Conditions of Participation

1. Age of Horse

Horses must be a minimum of 4 years of age for ESNZ PE events. The age is counted from 1st August of the year of birth (1st January for horses born in the northern hemisphere).

2. Behaviour

In the interests of safety, horses must not behave in a manner deemed dangerous when in the vicinity of other horses. It is the responsibility of the athlete that the horse is safe for the athlete, other horses and people at the event. The Organising Committee may require any horse deemed to be behaving in a dangerous manner to be removed from the grounds.

3. Stallions

Para-Equestrian athletes may compete on stallions under the following conditions and with reference to Article 119.2.

3.1 Riders must fully understand the requirements of the ESNZ General Regulation No. 147 in regard to riding and handling of Stallions

3.2 Athletes must fully understand the requirements of DNZ Rule 478.15 in regard to Stallions, Handling, Armbands and obey them.

3.3 Stallions must wear a red ESNZ Stallion bridle tag. The rider and handler of a stallion must wear approved stallion armbands (one on each arm) at all times when the stallion is not confined in a suitable stable/yard/truck/float. The rider may however, for the test, choose to remove the armbands at the completion of the final warm up, just before entering the area around the competition arena.

3.4 The athlete must have a handler present at all times while at the competition. The stallion handler must be experienced in handling stallions. The handler is in addition to any other support persons that are required under the rules for that athlete.

Article 120 Abuse of Horses

See ESNZ General and Veterinary Regulations and Policies

Article 121 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Program

1. The Medication Control of horses must be conducted in accordance with

the ESNZ Veterinary Regulations, FEI Veterinary Regulations and EADCMR.

2. The FEI Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations apply to all ESNZ events.

Article 122 Equipment and Compensating Aids

Equipment

1. Saddles

1.1.A well-fitting, well maintained saddle, suitable to the horse and athlete shall be used. Any modification or adaptation to a saddle must ensure the Athlete's safety and must not affect the welfare of the horse especially regarding size, shape and weight.

At the halt there must be a clear 3 cm between any means of support and the athlete's trunk. Any adaptations to a saddle must allow the athlete to fall free of the horse. Any such adaptation must be listed as a Compensating Aid on the athlete's ESNZ Classification Form and on the ESNZ master list. No saddle may be deeper in the seat than 12 cm with the seat pressed down. This is measured from the middle of a line from the top of the pommel to the top of the cantle. Any modification or adaptation to the saddle must be noted on the ESNZ Classification Master List as a compensating aid.

1.1.2 **Stirrups** must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups must have closed branches. The stirrup leathers must have a release mechanism where they are attached to the saddle. Unless stated on the ESNZ Master list, stirrup leathers must be on the outside of the saddle flap.

1.1.3 To prevent the possibility of the foot sliding through the stirrup, stirrups may be closed at the front (enclosed stirrups). This is a standard compensating aid for all athletes and do not need to be on the ESNZ Master list.

1.1.4 Athletes with one (1) leg may ride with one (1) stirrup. If the athlete rides with a prosthesis two (2) stirrups must be used.

1.1.5 Athletes within nominated profiles may ride without stirrups if required. This must be stated on the ESNZ Classification master list as a compensating aid for that athlete.

2. Bridles and Bits – refer to Dressage New Zealand Rules for Dressage Article 478 Saddlery. All saddles, bridles, bits and gear specified in these rules are also allowed in Para-Equestrian dressage but should be read in conjunction with the FEI Rules for Para Equestrian as these may differ.

2.1 If competing at an International (FEI) competition it is the athlete's responsibility to check the FEI rules for allowed and disallowed gear. This may differ to NZ rules.

3. ESNZ Identification (bridle) numbers are to be worn by the horse at all

times when it is out of the stable, yard or tied to a truck/float, when competing in ESNZ Para-Equestrian competitions. At all other times horses must have a tag with their ID number attached to the halter or cover. Unregistered combinations will be allocated an identification number by the Organising Committee prior to the start of competition.

4. Ear hoods are permitted for all Events and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the horse's eyes. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.

5. Ear plugs are allowed at Prize Giving Ceremonies only.

6. Decoration - Any decoration of the horse with unnatural items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the tail, etc., is strictly forbidden.

6.1 Normal plaiting of the horse's mane and tail is allowed.

6.2 **False tails** are permitted. False tails may not contain any metal parts, except for hooks and eyelets.

7. Checking saddlery

For ESNZ Para-Equestrian National and Championship events a Steward must be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse immediately after it leaves the arena. Any discrepancy will be reported to the Judge at C and will result in elimination.

7.1 The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution (see FEI Manual for Para-Equestrian Dressage Stewards).

7.2 The Steward must use disposable surgical gloves when checking the bit (one pair of gloves per horse).

7.3 The Ground Jury at any Dressage NZ event may check saddlery and Compensating Aids against the Para-Equestrian athlete's ESNZ Classification form immediately after he/she leaves the arena.

8. Compensating Aids

8.1 **Standard compensating aids** are aids of equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in the ESNZ Dressage Rules, which may be used by the athletes across all functional profiles. Standard compensating aids are allowed to be used by all Athletes and do not need to be noted on the ESNZ Master list.

8.1.1 The following list is standard aids allowed for all Para Equestrian Athletes in all grades. These aids may be used whether or not they are listed on the athlete's card:

- Voice (grades I, II & III)
- SWHO (salute with head only)
- Sitting or rising trot
- Gloves optional
- Spurs optional
- Saddle any type
- Soft hand hold (i.e. monkey strap)
- Deep saddle

- Breast plate and/or neck strap
- Split reins on a Double bridle
- Elastic inserts in reins
- Safety vest (including inflatable)
- Elastic bands to stirrups
- Magnetic stirrups
- Enclosed stirrups
- One whip. When riding a horse 120cm including the flapper and when riding a pony 100cm including the flapper

Refer to Annex IV for full list of compensating aids.

8.2. Profile Specific compensating aids are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery, which may be used by nominated profiles and must be noted on the ESNZ Master list following classification evaluation.

8.3. Non-standard compensating aids are aids, other than those above, required by an individual athlete and not described specifically in these rules. The aid is prescribed specifically for the athlete to enable them to ride the horse without providing an advantage over other athletes within the same Profile or Grade. These aids may include modifications to a standard or profile specific compensating aid, or a piece of non-standard equipment custom made for the athlete.

8.3.1. The use of a non-standard compensating aid must be approved by the FEI or ESNZ Classifier before the event at which it is to be used takes place. Any request must be provided in writing with supporting documentation (medical documentation, aid description, photos etc) at least two weeks before the start of the event. If approved, it will be added as a compensating aid for that athlete and added to the Classification master list.

8.4. All saddlery and special equipment used in competition must correspond to that allowed under ESNZ Dressage rules. It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all special equipment/compensating aids they use in competition meet the requirements under these rules, and that any standard or profile specific compensating aids used are noted for that Athlete on the ESNZ Classification master list.

8.5 Handholds The use of a soft handhold (monkey strap) is allowed for all athletes. This must be attached to the front of the saddle in front or above the pommel. It must not be more than thirty centimetres (30cm) in length and no more than 10 centimetres (10cm) above the top of the pommel when held.

8.5.1 All athletes may use a neck strap as a hand hold. For this purpose a breast plate is allowed. This is a standard compensating aid.

8.6 Athletes within nominated functional profiles may use a hard (fixed/rigid) hand hold if required. The hard handhold must comply with the same measurement criteria as the soft handhold above. Any deviation from these measurements will be considered a non-standard compensating aid. Hard hand holds must be stated on the ESNZ Classification Master List for that athlete.

8.7 Dark-coloured seat/saddle covers may be used if they are specified on the ESNZ Classification Master list for that athlete.

9. Whips.

9.1 All athletes may use one (1) whip (a total maximum length of one hundred twenty centimetres (120cm) for horses or one hundred centimetres (100cm) for ponies as a standard compensating aid.

9.2 Athletes within nominated profiles may use two (2) whips if required and must be stated on the ESNZ Classification Master List for that Athlete.

9.3 Any alteration to a conventional or a curved whip must be approved by an ESNZ or FEI Classifier as a non-standard compensating aid and must be stated on the ESNZ Classification master list for that athlete.

10. Other Para-Equestrian saddlery aids allowed/not allowed

10.1 Martingales, blinkers, side, balancing, running, bearing and similar reins are forbidden. Any rein adaptation that produces a similar effect to these are not permitted.

10.2 Any rein from any bit in the horse's mouth must be in direct contact with the athlete. This means that if riding in a double bridle the two reins on one side must either both go to the athlete's hand(s) or be connected into one rein before reaching the athlete. Foot reins are only allowed when no other reins are going to be controlled by arm(s) or hand(s)/fingers from the upper part of the body of the athlete.

10.3 If the rein is not used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the athlete's point of contact on the reins to the horse's mouth. For athletes with two very short arms reins may be run through rings that are attached to the front of the saddle by leather straps. These rings must not be in a fixed position but shall be loose. Athletes using such rings must have details noted on the ESNZ Classification master list.

10.4 Split reins, and elastic rein inserts are standard compensating aids for all athletes and do not need to be noted on the Classification master list.

10.5 Elastic rubber bands may be used to keep the feet in the stirrups. Such elastic must be of a width and strength to allow the athlete to fall free of the horse. Magnetic stirrups are permitted. These are both standard compensating aids for all athletes and do not need to be noted on the master list.

10.6 Velcro may be used on the lower limbs to assist the athlete in the saddle where there is an identified need as determined by the athlete's functional profile and grade. The use of Velcro in this way must be recorded as a compensating aid for the athlete on the ESNZ Classification Master list.

10.6.1 The total amount of overlapping Velcro, or similar material, used by any athlete, must not exceed fifty square centimetres (50 sq. cm). Each overlap must not exceed the dimensions of three centimetres by six centimetres (3cm x 6cm). The total area of overlapping Velcro or similar material per leg must not

exceed 3cm wide and 6cm of overlap contact. For safety reasons it is recommended that it is fastened in a V shape.

10.7 Athletes in nominated profiles may use a strap to attach the stirrup leather to the girth or the stirrup iron to the girth to assist control of the lower leg. The strap must be stated on the ESNZ Classification master list for that athlete.

10.8 Athletes must not be held in position by any mechanism that does not automatically release in the event of an accident. Any strapping used, such as Velcro, leather or elastic, must allow the athlete to fall free from the horse.

10.9 Adaptations to equipment or Velcro or similar materials that assist in the balance of the athlete may change the Functional Profile of that athlete (see Article 126.1-2 and Annex I). Athletes may be re-classified, and as a result, may change Grade. The athlete would then have the option to ride in the higher Grade or not to use such adapted equipment.

11. Spurs

11.1 Spurs are not compulsory in any competition run under ESNZ Para-Equestrian Rules.

11.2 Spurs if worn must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the athlete's boot.

11.3 Spurs must not be offset, unless this is allowed as a compensating aid and noted on the ESNZ Classification Master list.

11.4 Any spur that has a curved shank must be worn with the curve down. Exception: Goose or swan neck spurs. (Diagram 1) The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used they must be free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs are allowed ('impuls spur'). 'Dummy' spurs with no shanks are allowed. Spurs of the type shown below (Diagram 2) are allowed, as long as the rowel is blunt/smooth. Fixed rowels and sharp edges on spurs are not allowed.



Diagram 1

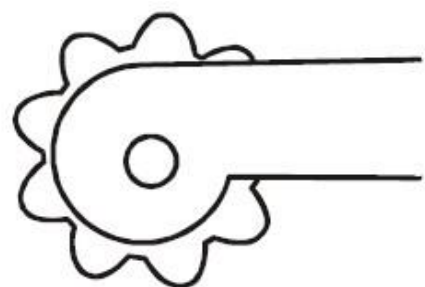


Diagram 2

11.5 Athletes abusing the horse with the spurs whether intentionally or not may be asked to remove spurs by the Technical Delegate, Chief Steward or President of the Ground Jury.

Article 123 Horse Inspections and Examinations

Horse Inspections and Examinations will be conducted in accordance with the ESNZ Veterinary Regulations (see Article 3).

Article 124 The Schooling of Horses

1.1. On the grounds of safety at all Para-Equestrian Events, riding is not permitted in an arena where lungeing is taking place. The lungeing of two or more separate horses in the same arena is permitted providing the Steward deems it safe.

1.2. Horses for Grade I, Grade II, and Grade III may be schooled for up to thirty minutes per day by the trainer/coach/groom or another athlete. The total time allowed for the above training may be carefully observed and regulated by Stewards.

1.3. Horses for Grade IV and Grade V athletes must only be schooled by the athlete competing on that horse.

1.4. Horses being competed by Grade I, Grade II and Grade III athletes may not be trained/schooled by anyone other than the competitor for the fifteen minutes before they enter the competition arena to perform their Dressage test. Horses may however be led around with or without the athlete during the fifteen minutes prior to this but may not be schooled from the ground.

1.5. Horses may be lunged without an athlete by the athlete/trainer/coach or his/her designated representative, but not during the fifteen minutes before entering the competition arena. Single direct side reins or double sliding side reins (triangle) are permitted when lungeing. Lungeing is allowed with a single lunge line only.

1.6. The Organising Committee can decide that horses may be ridden in and around the competition arena at a time designated by the Organising Committee in consultation with the Technical Delegate or Chief Steward. The trainer/coach or his/her representative may do this for athletes in Grades I, II and III.

1.7. No horse may be schooled outside the designated schooling times without the permission of the Technical Delegate or Chief Steward. No horse may be schooled outside the designated schooling areas at any time after the horse has been accepted at the venue. Schooling in the stable is not allowed.

1.8. For National Para-Equestrian competitions, ESNZ Para-Equestrian Rules are in force from the official start time of the event as stated by the OC or if none stated from midnight preceding the first competition of the event, until the conclusion of the event.

1.9. The Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse is in force at all times.

1.10. There is no time limit for riders of any grade riding/schooling their own horse but riding/schooling must take place at a designated area(s) and may be supervised by stewards. Stewards may limit the riding/schooling time if they deem it to be necessary for the welfare of the horse.

1.11. All horses may be hacked on a long rein by another rider without time restrictions and may take place under the supervision of the stewards. The stewards must be advised when the schooling period commences (Article 124.1.2). The hacking and schooling riders may be different riders.

Article 125 Sharing of Horses

1. Where one Horse is shared by two Athletes the following applies:

1.1. For Horses ridden by Grade I, II or III athletes, the horse must still only be ridden by a trainer/coach/groom for a total of 30 minutes per day. (ie if two athletes from Grade I, II or III share, they are only allowed 30 minutes total shared between them, per day).

1.2. Arena familiarisation sessions are allocated on a Horse basis, not Athlete basis and therefore only one session would be allocated to a Horse shared by two athletes.

1.3. Where Horses are shared by one Athlete from the lower Grades (I, II or III and one Athlete from the higher Grades (IV or V) the following applies:

1.4 On competition days, if the lower Grade Athlete competes first then 30 minutes schooling by a trainer/coach/groom/other rider will be allowed prior to the test.

1.5 On competition days where the higher Grade Athlete competes first, this is considered to be the 30 minutes schooling (by a trainer/coach/groom) allowed for the lower Grade Athlete and therefore no further allocation of time will be allowed for the lower Grade Athlete. This is on the grounds of horse welfare.

1.6 On non-competition days, the Horse may be ridden by both Athletes, but no time will be allocated for the Horse to be schooled by a trainer/coach/groom. It is considered the higher Grade Athlete is schooling the Horse for the lower Grade Athlete.

CHAPTER III

THE RIDER

Article 126 Conditions of Participation

1. Functional Classification

It is a condition of participation that the athlete has a measurable physical or visual impairment that satisfies the minimum impairment criteria as detailed in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Manual (see also Annex I).

1.1. All athletes must have their Functional Profile assessed by a FEI Para-Equestrian accredited Classifier (or by a relevantly qualified person nominated by the New Zealand FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier for a provisional classification) before they may take part in a competition. The athlete will be graded according to their Functional Profile as described in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Manual. Athletes are divided into five Grades: Grades I and II are for the riders with a severe impairment; Grade V is for the riders with least impairment.

1.2. This Functional Profile may need to be re-assessed. If reclassified (due to a change in medical condition or impairment), the athlete may compete in the original Grade for two months from the date of the reclassification. This assumes that the athlete does not change his/her compensating aids. If an athlete is reclassified to a lower grade, he/she may change to the new grade immediately. For further details, see Annex I and the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Manual.

1.3. If an athlete modifies equipment to assist their balance, they may be re-classified, and as a result, may change Grade. The athlete would then have the option to ride in the higher Grade or not to use such adapted equipment (see Article 122.6.10).

2. Para-Equestrian ID Cards/Classification form

2.1. After being classified the athlete will be issued with a copy of their FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Form, detailing their Profile, Grade and Compensating Aids permitted in competition. These may also have been issued previously as ID Cards. ID cards are still valid unless compensating aids have changed.

2.1.1 When an athlete enters an International competition for the first time he/she must notify the Organising Committee via ESNZ that he/she requires international classification by a FEI International Classifier of a country other than New Zealand prior to competing. All relevant medical reports must be submitted to the FEI in advance of classification. A permanent FEI Para-Equestrian ID Card will then be issued and the rider's details entered on the FEI Para-Equestrian list of internationally classified riders. For more information check the FEI Para

Dressage rules.

2.2 A copy of the athletes FEI or ESNZ ID card if issued, or classification form must be submitted to the organizing committee upon entering any competition. The organizing committee must make a copy of the compensating aids allowed available to all officials relevant to the classes entered. This includes all stewards.

2.2.1 When entering competitions via Equestrian Entries and any other online system please check that your ESNZ ID Card or Classification form and compensating aids are loaded against your profile so a copy can be made available to the officials as required.

2.2.2 It is recommended that a copy of the ID Card or classification form is carried by the athlete at all times while competing so that it can be produced when requested by an official.

3. Use of compensating aids in able-bodied Dressage Events

3.1. Para-Equestrian athletes may use the compensating aids listed on their FEI or ESNZ PE ID card, or classification form when competing in able-bodied Dressage NZ classes. They should submit a copy of either their FEI or ESNZ Para- Equestrian ID card, or classification form stating allowable Compensating Aids with their entry form. This card should also be shown to the Judge at C, and others as requested. If an athlete wishes to use any other aids not specifically listed on their ID card or classification form then they must apply to DNZ for dispensation to do so. Refer to the Dressage NZ rules, article 483 for more information.

3.2. Riders classified as Profile 42, or NZ Grade VI, who have a disability that is medically diagnosed, but does not meet the minimum disability level to allow competing in Para Equestrian, must complete an ESNZ Dressage Dispensation form, and have it approved prior to any competition entry. Refer to Dressage NZ rules, article 483.

4. Age limits

There are no age limits for national competition. Competitors who wish to compete in international events will be bound by the FEI rules.

5. Participation of able-bodied riders in Para-Equestrian Dressage Events

Able-bodied (non Para-Equestrian) riders may compete at local and regional Para-Equestrian competitions *Hors Concours* as follows:

Grade I classes can be ridden by riders of C1 or below and/or horses that have never gained more than 15 Dressage NZ level 1 points.

Grade II classes can be ridden by riders of C2 or below and/or horses that have never gained Dressage NZ points at level 2.

Grade III classes can be ridden by riders of C3 or below and/or horses that have never gained Dressage NZ points at level 3.

Grade IV classes can be ridden by riders of C 4 or below and/or horses that have never gained Dressage NZ points at level 4.

Grade V classes can be ridden by riders of C5 or below and/or horses that have never gained Dressage NZ points at level 6.

Category	Definition
Category N	(CN) Newcomers. For riders who have never earned grading points at any Level
Category 1	(C1) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 1
Category 2	(C2) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level
Category 3	(C3) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 3
Category 4	(C4) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 4
Category 5	(C5) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 5
Category 6	(C6) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 6
Category 7	(C7) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 7
Category 8	(C8) For riders who have never earned 15 or more grading points at any level above Level 8
Category 9	(C9) For riders who have earned 15 or more grading points at Level 9

5.1. Unregistered or training horses may compete in training competitions, in any of the Grades provided that the rider meets the relevant criteria.

Article 127 Categories of Para-Equestrian Dressage Events

1. Para-Equestrian Dressage Events are divided into:
 - Local Events – events where Para-Equestrian classes are held in conjunction with local Dressage NZ groups or held as standalone events utilising Dressage NZ judges with Para-Equestrian training (where possible).
 - Regional/Island Championships – generally standalone competitions or run in conjunction with Dressage NZ local events or Regional or Island

Championships. Every effort is made to utilise official ESNZ Para-Equestrian accredited judges.

- National Championships – generally a standalone competition or run in conjunction with Dressage New Zealand Regional, Island or National Championships or Horse of the Year Show. Every effort is made to utilise official ESNZ Para-Equestrian accredited judges and/or internationally qualified Para-Equestrian judges.

1.2. International Events

International Events are only those events that have been sanctioned by the FEI and are run under FEI Para-Equestrian Rules.

Athletes are required to qualify for the Paralympic Games and other major international events. It is the athlete who will be ranked, rather than the combination.

2. At events a competitor that has been withdrawn from competition due to medical or veterinary reasons may be re-entered into the event as an individual, with the permission of the Organising Committee. Appropriate Medical and/or Veterinary certification that the athlete/horse is fit to continue may be requested.

3. Riding at a higher Grade

All riders must compete in the grade for which they are classified.

4. Riding at a lower Grade

4.1. An athlete may not enter a lower Grade test than his/her Functional Profile indicates except after reclassification.

4.2. When an athlete is reclassified before an event, it may be found that he/she has been entered in the wrong Grade (lower). The athlete can either compete in the Grade given by the international classifier or should stay in the Grade that he/she is entered for the duration of that event. If, however, the athlete chooses to ride in the Grade in which he/she was entered, the score as calculated from the total of all Judges' percentages will be reduced by 10% of the total result.

The athlete will appear on the scoreboard and result sheets.

4.3 Athletes who are reclassified during the season may immediately ride in their new grade.

5. Maximum number of competitions per day

5.1. Athletes may compete in a maximum of two tests per day per horse (or as stated in the schedule for local, regional and national ESNZ Para-Equestrian/Dressage NZ events).

5.2. Para Equestrian horses in all grades may compete in a maximum of two Para-Equestrian tests per day unless specifically stated by the organizing committee of the event.

5.3. No athlete may ride more than two horses in any one competition.

5.4. Athletes may ride a maximum of two horses in one Grade at any competition

5.5. If there are too many horses entered, the Organising Committee may ballot or otherwise restrict the number that may compete.

6. Support personnel

Teams and individual athletes are required to provide their own support personnel necessary in order for them to compete. The Organising Committee is not responsible for providing transport, staff or helpers for competitors, or grooms for the horses.

6.1 Experienced equine or support people are required for all Grades. The number of support people is dependent on the rider's needs. For Grades I, II & III support people are required to be with the athletes at all times while mounted including arena familiarisation and warm up.

6.2 One support person is required to lead each Para-Equestrian horse for Grades I, II & III at the Prize Giving, whether mounted or unmounted. A support person must also be present, but not necessarily on a lead for Grades IV & V.

Article 128 Dressage Tests

1. Each Grade has its own series of FEI and ESNZ Tests.
2. Details of the Official FEI and ESNZ Para-Equestrian Tests are published on the FEI (www.fei.org) and ESNZ (www.nzequestrian.org.nz) websites. All tests are on the ESNZ website.
3. Dressage and Freestyle to Music Tests are graded according to suitability for the athletes in the five Grades (I, II, III, IV and V). All Grades should be included if possible. Only the current Para-Equestrian Dressage tests may be used in official Para-Equestrian competitions.

In **Grade I tests**, athletes compete at walk.

In **Grade II tests**, athletes compete at walk and trot.

Grade I and Grade II may be combined where there are less than 4 entries in either class. Each Grade rides its own test, and the result is calculated by comparing percentages.

In **Grade III tests**, athletes compete at walk and trot.

In **Grade IV tests**, athletes compete at walk, trot, with lateral work, and canter.

In **Grade V tests**, athletes compete at walk, trot and canter with lateral work.

4. Athletes in Grades I-III compete in an arena 20 m x 40 m. Athletes in Grade IV and V compete, in an arena 20 m x 60 m. For NZ tests Grades I-III may compete in a 20m x 60m arena at local events but this must be advertised in the schedule (article 136.2.)

5. The Dressage Tests for Young Riders, Juniors and Children should be taken from the easier ESNZ Para-Equestrian Tests.

6.0. The Freestyle Test

6.1. The Freestyle to Music tests are competitions that can be used by all Grades at all levels. Each Grade has its own test.

6.2. Grade I, II & III Freestyle to Music tests must be no shorter than 4 minutes and no longer than 4 minutes and 30 seconds. Tests are performed in a 20 m x 40 m arena.

6.3. Grade IV & V Freestyle to Music tests must be no shorter than 4 minutes 30 seconds, and no longer than 5 minutes, and must be ridden in a 20 m x 60 m arena

6.4. The music must not start more than 20 seconds before the competitor enters the arena, and the music must cease at the final salute.

6.5. A halt and salute on the centre line facing the Judge at C at the beginning and end of the test is compulsory. The test time will start when the athlete moves off from the first halt and finishes at the final halt.

6.6. Athletes riding in Grade I & II may not show canter, piaffe or passage.

6.7. Athletes riding in Grade III may not show piaffe or passage and only show canter work that does not include lateral work, flying changes, half or full pirouettes.

6.8. Athletes riding in Grade IV may not show piaffe, passage, sequence changes or half or full canter pirouettes.

6.9. Athletes riding in Grade V may not show piaffe, passage, sequence changes every 1st or 2nd strides or full canter pirouettes.

6.10. An athlete intentionally showing disallowed paces or movements during the execution of the test will have 8 marks deducted by each Judge each time a not allowed movement is shown, and a choreography mark of 5 or below, but will not be eliminated. The decision of the Judge at C will be final in such cases.

6.11. On the test sheet there is a list of compulsory movements that must be included in the test. On noticing that a compulsory movement has been omitted, the members of the Ground Jury judging that class will each give 0 for that movement. The mark for choreography will also be affected. The decision of the C Judge will be final in such cases.

Article 129 Dress

The dress code for Para-Equestrian Dressage is the same as that for Dressage New Zealand and is covered in the DNZ rules under Article 480 except for the following:

1. All athletes must be neatly and correctly dressed at all times.
 - 1.1. In a training event or non-graded competition run under ESNZ Para-Equestrian Rules, it is permissible for athletes to wear suitable Pony Club, Riding Club, or Organising Committee approved dress standard. Protective headgear must conform to the current safety standards as published in the ESNZ General Regulations.
 - 1.2. Gloves shall be worn if possible.
 - 1.3. In all training and practice at the competition venue all riders, including grooms, trainers, owners etc. must wear an approved helmet that is securely fastened at all times while mounted.
 - 1.4. An arm band, provided by the Athlete, in a distinctive colour must be worn at all times by all Athletes with a visual impairment profile while mounted outside of the Competition.

Article 130 Medication

1. The Sports Anti-Doping Rules made by Drug Free Sport Zealand (DFS) under the provision of the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006, as presented and amended from time to time by DFS, act as the Anti-Doping Rules for ESNZ. A full copy of these rules are available from www.drugfreesport.org.nz.
2. The Rules and lists of banned substances are regularly updated. It is the athlete's responsibility to keep up to date.
3. The World Anti-Doping *Code International Standard* for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) is a Level 2 mandatory *International Standard* developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. The *Code* permits Athletes to apply for therapeutic use exemptions (TUE), i.e. permission to use, for therapeutic purposes, substances or methods contained in the List of Prohibited Substances or Methods where use would otherwise be prohibited. Details of the procedure for applying for a TUE through Drug Free Sport NZ are available at: www.drugfreesport.org.nz

CHAPTER IV

JUDGES and OFFICIALS

Details of the standards and qualifications of judges for ESNZ Para-Equestrian events are given in Annex II.

Article 131 Ground Jury

1. For National competitions and when International competitors are invited and present (CPEDN), there should be at least three Judges, if possible.

2. Every effort should be made to appoint Official National Grade Judges for National Competitions. However in special circumstances, where it is not possible to get a judge of this calibre, an Organising Committee can apply to the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Committee to have the next possible qualified judge appointed. It is up to the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Committee to approve this.

Judging Requirements for Para-Equestrian Events

EVENT	No. judges required (minimum)	ESNZ Para-Equestrian Grade	FEI Para-Equestrian Grade
CPEDN	3	ON (1 only)	FEI 3*, 4* or 5*
CPEDIM	3	ON (1 only)	FEI 3*, 4* or 5*
National	3	ON; N	
Island	2	ON; N	
Regional	2	ON; N; CN shadow	
Local**	1	ON; N; CN;	

ESNZ Para-Equestrian Grade

(see Annex II)

ON Official National

N National

CN Candidate **Local – A local Para-Equestrian event must have a qualified Para- Equestrian judge if possible. A Dressage New Zealand event with a Para- Equestrian class can be judged by a Dressage New Zealand listed judge at List D or above if a Para-Equestrian judge is not available.

3. The marks of all Judges are taken into consideration for the results.

4. For ESNZ National events and/or CPEDIM, the Jury must be appointed by the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Sports Manager and the Organizing Committee, and be chosen from the FEI National Federation or the ESNZ lists of Para-Equestrian judges.

5. At any event a Judge may not be called upon to judge more than 40 competitors a day.

Article 132 Technical Delegate

1. A Technical Delegate should be appointed for all competitions. The Organising Committee will appoint the Technical Delegate, who must be approved by the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Sports Manager. The Chief judge may be appointed as TD.
2. At events run by Dressage New Zealand any Para Equestrian riders come under the jurisdiction of the DNZ appointed Technical Delegate.
3. A list of Technical Delegates qualified to officiate at all levels of events is maintained by ESNZ.

Article 133 Classifiers

1. Classification for Functional Profiles 36 and 37 must be carried out by an ophthalmologist or optical doctor, and for Functional Profile 39 by a psychologist.
2. Classification for International competitions must be carried out by two FEI internationally accredited Para-Equestrian Classifiers. Two Classifiers may do the classification together or separately, but one of them must be from a different nation to that of the athlete.
3. A FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier is a Physiotherapist or Medical Practitioner who has attended and passed a FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Course.
4. A list of Classifiers qualified to officiate at all levels of events is maintained by the FEI Secretariat.

5. Protests against Classification

5.1. All classification protests and appeals should be dealt with in accordance with the FEI Classification Manual.

5.2. When new Nationally classified athletes are classified internationally for the first time before an event, it may be found that the athlete has been entered in the wrong Grade (lower). The athlete can either compete in the Grade given by the international classifier or should stay in the Grade he/she entered for the duration of that event. However, if the athlete chooses to ride in the grade that he/she was entered in, the score as calculated from the total of all Judges' percentages will be reduced by 10% of the total result. He/she will appear on the scoreboard and result sheets. For more detail, see the FEI Classification Manual.

Article 134 Veterinary Delegate

1. The appointment of the veterinarian must be in accordance with the ESNZ General and Veterinary Regulations and Policies

2. The Veterinary Delegate should conduct all veterinary examinations, including the 'Trot Up'.

Article 135 Stewards

1. The Chief Steward is responsible for all the Stewards and will report to the Para-Equestrian Technical Delegate for the competition.

CHAPTER V

PARTICIPATION

Article 136 Arena and Exercise Areas

1.1. At Dressage New Zealand events it is recommended that where possible an enclosed warm up area is made available for Grades I, II and III (separate from other dressage competitors). Tape arenas are prohibited at all dressage competitions run under ESNZ Rules for Para-Equestrian and Dressage New Zealand, however if a permanently fenced area is not available, a temporary roped area with a minimum height of 0.5 m is acceptable for a warm up area.

1.2. Grades IV and V require a warm up area but it does not need to be enclosed and it may be shared with able bodied athletes.

1.3. In the interest of safety, it is required that Para-Equestrian athletes wear the P-E saddle cloth badges during warm up and competition at all events. Two badges must be worn, one on either side of the saddle cloth.

1.4. At all events the competition arena has to be checked and approved by the Technical Delegate and/or the President of the Ground Jury.

2. The arena

ESNZ National Para-Equestrian tests may be ridden in a 60 x 20 arena for all grades

2.1. The arena, flat and level, must be 60 m long and 20 m wide for Grade IV & V athletes. The measurements above are for the interior of the enclosure, which must be separated from the public by a distance of not less than 15 m. For indoor competitions the minimum distance should in principle be 3 m. The enclosure itself should consist of a low fence about 0.3 m high. The width of the entrance must be at least 2 m. The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove, to let the competitors in and out of the arena. The rails of the fence should be such as to prevent the horse's hooves from entering.

2.2. An arena of 40 m long and 20 m wide must also be provided for Para-Equestrian Grade I, Grade II and Grade III athletes. If visually impaired athletes require larger markers, they have to provide them themselves.

3. The letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 m from the fence and clearly marked.

4. A marked centre line is recommended if possible.

5. Judges should be placed a maximum of 5 m, minimum of 3 m from the arena at outdoor competitions and preferably a minimum of 3 m at indoor competitions; the Judge at C on the prolongation of the centre line, any others at either (M and H) 2.5 m from and on the inside of the

prolongation of the long sides or (B and E) at a maximum of 5 m, minimum 3 m from the arena at B and E respectively; at indoor competitions preferably a minimum of 2 m. When multiple Judges are used it is recommended that one should sit on the long side.

6. A separate hut, car or platform must be provided for each Judge.

7. Judges should be positioned to provide good views of the entire arena.

8. It is recommended to have a pause of about 15 minutes after every 2 hours, to reconstitute the surface of the ground. If there are more than 30 competitors one of the breaks should be for at least 25 minutes. The minutes are timed from the finishing time of one competitor to the start time of the next competitor. A break of one hour should be allowed for lunch for the Judges.

9. If the competition is held indoors, the arena should, in principle, be a minimum distance of 2 m from the wall.

10. On no account and under penalty of disqualification, may a competitor/horse use the competition arena at any time other than during his/her performance in a competition or during an allocated training session.

10.1. Exceptions may be made by the Technical Delegate or the President of the Ground Jury.

11. A practice arena should also be available for visually impaired/blind athletes to train alone. If possible these arenas should be of the same consistency as the competition arena footing.

12. Where it is not practically feasible to provide a practice arena of 60 m x 20 m, it is recommended that the competitors are permitted to exercise their horses in the competition arena. A fixed time schedule setting out the times during which the competition arena may be used for training purposes should in that case be clearly set out.

13. For indoor competitions where it is not practical for the athletes to ride their horses around the outside of the arena prior to entering the arena, athletes can be permitted to enter the arena for a period of time before the bell is sounded. The Organising Committee together with the President of the Ground Jury or Technical Delegate can decide whether competitors must leave the arena before commencing their test or must start from the inside of the arena.

14. All visually impaired/blind athletes may start the test from within the arena.

15. Interruption

15.1. In case of any technical failure that will interfere with the competition, the Judge at C shall ring the bell. It is recommended that in clear cases of external disturbance, the same procedure is applied. During

extreme weather conditions or other extreme situations the Judge at C may ring the bell for interruption of the Test. The Technical Delegate/Organising Committee may also suggest to the Judge at C to stop the Competition. The affected Athlete should return to complete his/her Test when conditions so permit.

In the case of an athlete's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the athlete can, with the permission of the Judge at C, leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other athletes. The affected athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The Judge at C, after conferring with the athlete, will determine when the athlete should return to the arena. It is up to the athlete whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In that case the marks already given will not be changed.

15.2. If an athlete has to restart an ordinary test, he/she can choose to start from the beginning of the test or from where stopped. Any scores given before the interruption remain.

Article 137 Schedules

1. Grades I - V may compete at all events that run Para classes, riding the FEI or ESNZ National Test for their own grade as scheduled.
2. Grade 6 riders may **only** compete at Local events, riding the Grade 6 test in TOC or ESNZ National Grade 6 Para classes as scheduled.
3. Regional, Island and National Championship events should comprise of two or three Dressage tests for each of the five Grades of athletes as follows:

First test

Team or Novice tests may be used

The Novice Test: A preliminary test which is an easier test than the Team Test. These tests will be used for the Team competition if one is scheduled.

Second Test

The Team Test if first test is Novice Test. *The Championship Test* if first test is Team Test.

Third Test

The Freestyle to Music Test.

4. No more than two tests are to be ridden by an athlete per horse on any one day (Article 127.4).

5. *Specific entry conditions.*

All Schedules for Island and National Championships must be approved by the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Sport Manager no less than 8 weeks prior to

the competition.

6. Qualification for National Pinnacle Events

6.1. Combinations intending to compete at the Para Equestrian National or Horse of the Year Championships in NZ are required to have competed at two different regional or local PE events in their classified grade (article 127:5.4) on the horse/s they wish to ride in the previous 12 months to the start of the event.

6.2. In the case of the inability of a combination to compete one month out from the event, upon the presentation of a vet or equivalent certificate dated no earlier than one month out from the event, the rider may apply to the Sport Manager/ Working Committee of PE for dispensation to compete a substitute horse. Substitute horse must be ESNZ registered, but the two-show qualification requirement (Article 137.4.1) will be waived.

6.3. For riders who are sharing a horse (Article 125) then each individual rider must obtain the necessary qualification standard as a combination (Article 137.4.1). This may be achieved in conjunction with the sharing rider at the same qualifying events with the conditions of Article 125, 1.3 applying to the draw of the class. In the use of Article 125 at local or regional events it is the riders responsibility to check with the OC prior to the draw that these conditions are met.

Article 138 Accident or Illness

1. In the event of an accident or illness a competitor declared as a starter, who consequently cannot start in a test, may, with the approval of the Organising Committee, together with the Technical Delegate or President of the Ground Jury, start in a later competition, but only as an individual athlete. Appropriate medical and/or veterinary certification that the athlete/horse is fit to continue may be requested.

Article 139 Draw for the Order of Starting

1. Should competitors have more than one horse, the order of starting should where possible be adjusted to ensure that ideally a gap of at least one hour is left between their horses. The organising committee has the right to limit athletes to one horse per class if scheduling does not allow for a suitable gap.

2. Each horse keeps the same identification (bridle) number throughout the competition. It is compulsory that this number be worn by the horse or the competitor while actively competing and at any time while working in the exercise and schooling areas from the time of their arrival until the end of the Event so that they can be identified by all Officials including the Stewards.

2.1. For all ESNZ registered horses the bridle number will be allocated at time of registration for use at each competition.

2.2. For all unregistered horses, identification numbers will be

allocated prior to the start of the competition by the Organising Committee.

2.3. Athletes in Grade I & II should not be required to ride very early in the morning. (to allow for prescribed medication to become effective)

Article 140 Execution of the Tests

1. The official FEI and ESNZ Para-Equestrian Tests may be commanded at competitions run under ESNZ PE rules, excepting those tests identified in the schedule. All tests must be commanded in English.

2. When a competitor makes an 'error of the course' (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the Judge at C warns by sounding the bell. The Judge shows him/her, if necessary, the point at which he/she must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him/her to continue by himself/herself.

3. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an 'error of the course', the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance - for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to working trot at E instead of at K - it is up to the Judge at C to decide whether to sound the bell or not.

4. If an athlete makes an error of course/test whilst executing a movement which is to be repeated later in the test, the Judge at C should, in the interests of the competitor, ring the bell as above and put the competitor right. Marks will be deducted for the error by each judge, but the competitor should remember to ride the correct movement in the repeated section, thus avoiding a second error and an additional penalty of four marks per judge.

5. The decision as to whether or not an error of course has been made will be that of the Judge at C. The other Judges' scores will be adapted accordingly.

5.1. Communication may be made through the athlete's representative.

6. Every 'error of the course', whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized.

ESNZ Tests are penalized as following:

- the first time by 2 points,
- the second time by 4 points,
- the third time the competitor is eliminated.

FEI tests are penalized as following:

- the first time by 0.5% deducted from the total score,
- the second time by 1.0% deducted from the total score,
- the third time the competitor is eliminated.

6.1. Other errors

All of the following are considered errors, and 2 points will be deducted per error, but they will not result in elimination (including for Freestyle Tests):

- Entering the arena before the sound of the bell;
- Not entering the arena within 60 seconds after the bell but within 120 seconds;
- For Freestyle Tests, entering the arena after more than 20 seconds of music.

6.2. If the Freestyle Test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the tests sheet, 0.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score.

7. When a competitor makes an 'error of the test' he/she must be penalised. In principle a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the Judge at C decides on an error of course (sounds the bell). If, however, the athlete has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the Judges must consider the first movement shown only and at the same time, penalise for an error of course.

7.1. If the Jury has not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt and will therefore not be penalised for the error.

7.2. The penalty points are deducted on each Judge's sheet from the total points obtained by the competitor.

8. In a case of marked lameness the Judge at C informs the athlete that he/she is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

9. In a movement which starts or finishes at a given letter in the arena, it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is beside or over this letter.

10. Para-Equestrian athletes must enter the arena within 60 seconds after the sound of the bell. On the grounds of safety, athletes in Grade I, II, III and Functional Profile 36 (blind) may be accompanied around the outside arena by the trainer or his representative before the test starts. The athlete may be led, but must not be schooled from the ground. The assisting person may stand outside the arena on the field of play during the test.

In the event that the horse starts to defecate or urinate, the clock will be stopped until the horse is ready to continue, at which point the clock will be restarted.

11. All athletes may salute with a nod of the head only. Helmets must not be removed at the salute, and contact must be maintained on the reins.

12. In the case of a fall of horse and/or athlete, the athlete will be eliminated.

13. A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet and in a wilful manner, causing the athlete to lose control will be eliminated. However, if

the athlete accidentally directs the horse to the outside of the arena or the arena is not fully boarded, the horse is not automatically eliminated. The decision is that of the Judge at C. Such incidents will incur heavy deduction of marks by each Judge.

13.1. In the case of a horse being unintentionally directed to leave the arena with all four feet where the boards are continuous, the Steward or other suitable person will remove one or more boards to allow the competitor to reenter the arena safely.

14. Resistance may last no longer than 60 seconds. However, resistance that may endanger athlete, horse, officials or members of the public may result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than 60 seconds.

15. 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. The competitor should leave the arena in the way that is prescribed in the text of the test.

16. Commanders and Callers

Definitions: Commanders read a test; callers call out the letters to those visually-impaired athletes who need this assistance.

16.1. Those athletes, qualified as above, who are also deaf or hearing-impaired may use sign language or radio communication. This must be stated on the athlete's Classification form and the ESNZ Classification master list.

16.2. Athletes shall have no more than one commander who shall stand in a fixed position outside the arena at E or B, or if this is not possible, stand as directed by the Judge at C.

16.3. The Commander may read each movement once or twice only, from the official printed text version of the Test or extracts there from (without any augmentation).

16.4. Commanders may not carry a whip.

16.5. Callers may only call the name of the letter(s). Only the lead caller (who may also command) may be in the centre of the arena. All other callers must be positioned outside the arena, and may move from one marker to another, provided they do not restrict the vision of any of the Judges. There shall be no more than nine callers, but blind/visually impaired athletes are encouraged to use as few callers as possible.

16.6. Competitors must provide their own Commander.

16.7. Errors of the course will be penalised in the usual way

16.8. If, in the opinion of the Judges, the Commander makes any variation from the text of the test or does anything to assist the competitor by signal, remarks or inflexion of the voice, a penalty may be recorded equal to that of the error of course that would have occurred had the assistance not been given.

Radio Transmitting Devices

17. Radio communication may not be used during the Test. Exceptions to this are as below in 17.1. and 17.2.

17.1. Those Athletes, qualified as above (16.1.) to use a commander, who are also deaf or hearing impaired as identified through the classification process may use sign language and/or they may use a radio head set during all tests. This will must be stated as a compensating aid on the ESNZ Classification Master List.

17.2. All Athletes who have been allowed a commander or caller/s as a compensating aid on the ESNZ Classification Master List are permitted to use a headset during Freestyle tests only.

17.3. In the above (17.1 and 17.2), it is the responsibility of the Athlete to provide a fully functioning headset with an extra receiver to enable the steward to listen to all communication going from the coach/helper to the Athlete. If this is not the case, the Athlete will not be permitted to use the equipment and must ride the test without it.

18. Other outside assistance

18.1. Any other outside assistance or intervention, including coaching by voice, signs etc., may result in elimination, at the discretion of the President of the Ground Jury or the Judge at C.

18.2. The athlete's trainer or representative may stand near the competition arena to relay the Judges' instructions, if necessary.

18.3. Helpers may be placed in corners 1 m outside the arena for safety reasons. In an emergency, they may give physical assistance. Penalties will be at the discretion of the Judge at C, who may eliminate the athlete either at the time, or at the conclusion of the test.

18.4. For Grade I, II and III, if circumstances allow a companion horse may stand within 2-5 m adjacent to the arena.

18.5 At Local events for Grade I only, unregistered lead rein classes or riders being led in a combined grade class may be permitted only where the OC can safely accommodate. At all other events riders must ride independently.

18.5.1 If a rider is on a lead rein, no whips may be carried.

Article 141 Time and Technical Failure

1. The only tests to be timed are the Freestyle Tests.

2. The test is timed from the move off after the first halt to the final halt. Entry music is not compulsory, and if used must not start more than 20 seconds before the competitor enters the arena. An athlete must enter the

arena within 20 seconds of the music starting. Exceeding 20 seconds will entail elimination, but the test may be performed first. The music must cease at the final salute. The halts must be on the centre line, facing the Judge at C.

3. In the case of an athlete's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the athlete should immediately leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other athletes and the affected athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The Judge at C, after conferring with the athlete, will determine when the athlete should return to the arena. The athlete may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In either case marks previously given will not be amended and the Judge will begin judging from the point where the test was previously stopped.

Article 142 Marking

1. All movements, and certain transitions from one to another, which have to be marked by the Judges, are numbered on the Judge's sheet.
2. They are marked from 0 to 10 by each Judge, 0 being the lowest and 10 the highest mark.

The scale of marks is as follows:

10: Excellent	4: Insufficient
9: Very good	3: Fairly bad
8: Good	2: Bad
7: Fairly good	1: Very bad
6: Satisfactory	0: Not executed
5: Sufficient	

All half marks from 0.5 to 9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the Judge.

'Not executed' means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed.

3. Collective marks are awarded, after the competitor has finished his/her performance for:

- 1) Paces.
- 2) Impulsion
- 3) Submission
- 4) Equestrian feel, skill of the athlete, accuracy

Each collective mark is awarded from 0 to 10.

Article 144 Calculation of Scores and Results

Note: For Para-Equestrian the word 'Classification' applies to the Functional Classification of athletes and is not applied to scoring and results.

1. After each performance and after each Judge has given his/her collective marks the Judges' sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding coefficients, where applicable, and then totalled. Penalty points for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each Judge's sheet.

2. The total score is obtained by adding the total points on each of the Judges' sheets. Percentages should also be obtained against the maximum total points available.

3. The Individual Results are calculated as follows:

3.1. In all competitions the winner is the competitor having obtained the highest percentage, the second placed competitor is the one with the next highest percentage and so on.

3.2. In case of equality of percentages for the first three places, the higher collective marks will decide on the better placing. In the case of equality of collective marks for the first three places, and in case of equality of percentages for remaining places, the competitors are given the same placing.

3.3. In case of equality of percentages in a Freestyle Test for the first three places, the higher artistic marks will decide on the better placing. In the case of equality of marks for the remaining places, the competitors are given the same placing

4. At Local Events, organising committees may choose to run Test of Choice (TOC) classes for Grades I-V plus Grade 6 that are scored separately or may combine all grades into one class and all riders will ride the same version of the test but in their own grade e.g: all riders will ride the Team Test for their grade. The winner will be the highest score across all tests no matter what the grade. The arena may be shortened to 20x40 if required for Grade I, II or III riders.

4.1 At Regional Events, organising committees may choose to run Test of Choice (TOC) classes for Grades I-V that are scored separately or may combine all grades into one class and all riders will ride the same version of the test but in their own grade e.g: all riders will ride the Team Test for their grade. The winner will be the highest score across all tests no matter what the grade. The arena may be shortened to 20x40 if required for Grade I, II or III riders.

4.2. Should there be sufficient entries organising committees are encouraged to have a separate championship for each grade where possible.

4.3. For Island, National and HOY Championships each grade should have its own Championship with a Grade Champion and Reserve unless agreed by the ESNZ Para Equestrian Working Committee/Sport Manager prior to the schedule being published and any variations to this must be advertised in the schedule.

4.4. Prize Guide:

All official FEI* competitions - Each Grade (I-V) has its own Championship with a Grade Champion and Reserve.

Nationals and HOY competitions - Each Grade (I-V) has its own Championship with a Grade Champion and Reserve.

North & South Island Competitions – Where possible each grade (I-V) has its own Championship with a Grade Champion and Reserve.

At Regional Championship shows it is up to the OC (Organising Committee) to decide if they want to run an ALL GRADES (I-V) Championship or INDIVIDUAL GRADES Championships.

At local shows it is up to the OC (Organising Committee) to decide if they want to run an ALL GRADES or INDIVIDUAL GRADES.

Article 145 Publishing of Results

1. After each performance the points awarded by each Judge will be added up by the scorer. The provisional scores from each judge are posted on the score board, (marked as 'Provisional') with the individual and total scores of all the Judges and the percentage score.
2. All results must be published in percentages with numbers to 3 places after the decimal point.
3. If a competitor withdraws prior to a competition or retires etc. during the performance of a test, the words 'retired', 'withdrawn', 'eliminated', 'excused' or 'no show' must appear after the competitor's name in the result sheet.
4. The President of the Ground Jury or Judge at C must sign an official results sheet for each class. The sheets can then be released to the competitors.
5. At Regional and National Events all results for Para-Equestrian competitions are to be sent to the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Sport Manager.

Article 146 Prize-Giving

1. Participation in the prize-giving Ceremony of placed athletes is recommended. Failure to do so could entail losing the placing and prize. Dress and Saddlery have to be the same as in the competition, however, the horse may wear white bandages or boots. Athletes may seek the permission of the Technical Delegate to enter on a horse other than the one they competed on.
2. One support person is required to lead each Para-Equestrian horse for Grades I, II & III at the Prize Giving, whether mounted or unmounted. A support person must also be present, but not necessarily on

a lead for Grades IV & V.

3. Where a horse is led it may not be led by a lead attached to the bit ring. The lead must be attached to a halter worn over the bridle or a bit connector with a ring attachment for the lead rope must be used.

4. At all times when horses are grouped together - prize-giving, horse inspections etc. – athletes and/or grooms must act responsibly. Carelessness or irresponsible behaviour may result in the giving of an official warning.

5. The Organising Committee, in conjunction with the Technical Delegate, will stipulate how many athletes are to present themselves at the official prize giving. It is recommended to do all prize-giving dismounted. This must be communicated to the athletes/athletes' representatives at least one hour in advance of the prize-giving.

6. Rosettes etc. for athletes not required at a prize giving can be collected by the athletes/athletes' representatives from a designated person, on production of the score sheet.

6. Hats must not be removed at a mounted Prize Giving.

7. Sponsors must also be involved where ever and whenever possible.

Article 147 Grading Points

1. Grading points are earned for all registered Para-Equestrian riders riding registered horses/ponies within the Para-Equestrian grade that they are classified for at events run under ESNZ or FEI rules where the classes are scheduled as "graded".

2. Points are earned for the FEI tests and ESNZ PE tests of the correct grade.

3. TOC classes count for grading points where they have been scheduled as graded classes and the correct list and number of judges officiate. *NB If TOC grading results are submitted to National Office electronically, each test (regardless of number of competitors) must be submitted as a separate class.*

4. Grading Points are allocated on the percentage gained in each test. These points are recorded on the Equestrian Sports NZ Data Base. Riders must keep a copy of their own points.

57 – 59.99%	ESNZ P-E Test = 1 point	57 – 59.99%	FEI Test = 2 points
60 – 62.99%	ESNZ P-E Test = 3 points	60 – 62.99%	FEI Test = 4 points
63 – 66.99%	ESNZ P-E Test = 5 points	63 – 66.99%	FEI Test = 6 points
67 – 69.99%	ESNZ P-E Test = 7 points	67 – 69.99%	FEI Test = 8 points

Article 148 Safety

1. At Dressage New Zealand events it is recommended that where possible an enclosed warm up area is made available for Grades I, II and III (separate from other dressage competitors). Tape arenas are prohibited at all dressage competitions run under ESNZ Rules for Para-Equestrian and Dressage New Zealand, however if a permanently fenced area is not available, a temporary roped area with a minimum height of 0.5 m is acceptable for a warm up area. (*Article 136 – 1.1*)

2. Grades IV and V require a warm up area but it does not need to be enclosed and it may be shared with able bodied athletes. (*Article 136 – 1.2*)

3. In the interest of safety, it is required that all Para-Equestrian athletes wear the P-E saddle cloth badges during warm up and competition at all events including while competing in other disciplines. Two badges must be worn, one on either side of the saddle cloth. (*Article 136 – 1.3*)

4. In all grades helpers may be placed in corners 1 m outside the arena for safety reasons. In an emergency, they may give physical assistance. Penalties will be at the discretion of the Judge at C, who may eliminate the athlete either at the time, or at the conclusion of the test. (*Article 140 – 18.3*)

5. Behaviour

In the interests of safety, horses must not behave in a manner deemed dangerous when in the vicinity of other horses. It is the responsibility of the athlete that the horse is safe for the athlete, other horses and people at the event. The Organising Committee may require any horse deemed to be behaving in a dangerous manner to be removed from the grounds. (*Article 119.2*)

6. On the grounds of safety at all Para-Equestrian Events, riding is not permitted in an arena where lungeing is taking place. The lungeing of two or more separate horses in the same arena is permitted providing the Steward deems it safe. (*Article 124.1*)

7. Support personnel

- A) Teams and individual athletes are required to provide their own support personnel necessary in order for them to compete. The Organising Committee is not responsible for providing transport, staff or helpers for competitors, mounting equipment or grooms for the horses. (*Article 127.6*)
- B) Experienced equine or support people are required for all Grades. The number of support people is dependent on the rider's needs. For Grades I, II & III support people are required to be with the athletes at all times while mounted including arena familiarisation and warm up. (*Article 127.6.2*)
- C) One support person is required to lead each Para-Equestrian horse

for Grades I, II & III at the Prize Giving, whether mounted or unmounted. A support person must also be present, but not necessarily on a lead for Grades IV & V.

ANNEX I

CLASSIFICATION

Classification for Para Equestrian sport was introduced in the lead up to the Paralympic Games in Atlanta. The Profile System was developed by Dr Christine Meaden (PhD) during the early 1990s as part of her PhD research study (unpublished) to develop a standard scoring method for the purpose of Classification.

Dr Meaden's research included the collection of data over a 4 year period to develop the baseline scores used to determine the Profile as described in this Manual. Since this time the Meaden Profiling system has been refined and enhanced including the addition of new Profiles and the adjustment to baseline scores to better reflect the requirements of the sport.

Impairment is assessed as described in this Manual. The Meaden Profiling System is then used to classify Impairment into easily recognised Profiles and the grouping of these Profiles into Grades (Sport Class) for competition. The Profiles are versatile but tight, easy to use and understand and are sport specific. The movement and mobility Profiles are based on the ability of the functioning part of the body.

This Classification system will not disadvantage an especially skilled Athlete who may appear to be more able than is actually so.

Dressage is built on the premise that two Athletes are competing as one, the Horse and rider.

In the sport of Para Equestrian, the Horse, like people, come in different shapes and sizes and different athletic ability – all of which may influence the rider's position on the Horse.

The aim of Equestrian sports is for the Rider to demonstrate their skill by influencing the Horse in order to perform the task required.

In New Zealand only we have introduced Grade VI. This is for athletes who do not meet the FEI minimum criteria but whose disability may benefit from the use of some compensating aids when riding. Competition for this level is run in New Zealand only at Local level. These riders may apply to Dressage NZ for dispensation to compete in able bodied competitions with their approved compensating aids.

Full details of the classification process are given in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Manual, downloadable from the FEI website.

National Classification

All Para-Equestrian athletes must be classified before competing in ESNZ events.

An athlete seeking national classification should apply to the ESNZ Para-Equestrian Sport Manager. Application and contact details will be forwarded

on to an ESNZ accredited Classifier, who will explain the process and requirements.

A provisional classification may be issued, valid for 12 months for use at local competitions only, but at the earliest possible opportunity, all potential PE riders should present for formal classification. This involves a "Bench" test, and if possible, a riding observation, to endorse the Profile and grade allocated.

An assessment for classification will be undertaken by a physiotherapist, general practitioner or other specialist as relevant – the details being recorded on the Para-Equestrian Rider Classification Form. [The Rider Classification Form is returned to the athlete and should be kept safely as it will be required should the athlete seek international classification.

Based on the details in the Para-Equestrian Rider Classification Form a FEI or ESNZ Para-Equestrian Classifier will then allocate the athlete's Functional Profile and Grade, and determine what, if any, compensating aids the athlete may use in competition. These details will be recorded on an ESNZ Para-Equestrian Provisional Classification Card issued by the Classifier.

Each newly classified PE rider will receive a copy of their classification card, showing their Profile, Grade, Grade status and compensating aids. A copy will be sent to ESNZ for the Classification Master List. For details on profiles, grades and status, refer to <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>.

A copy of the ESNZ Classification Card or if previously issued and still valid ESNZ Para-Equestrian Identity Card should be attached to entry forms for all Para-Equestrian and able-bodied dressage events where the rider will use compensating aids.

Example of ESNZ Para-Equestrian Provisional Classification Card

ESNZ PARA-EQUESTRIAN PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION CARD	
Name:	
M/F	D.O.B.
GRADE	Functional Profile
I	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12a, 13
II	4, 6, 9, 10a, 11a, 12b, 31a
III	8, 10b, 11b, 14, 17a, 18a, 27, 31b, 32
IV	15, 17b, 18b, 19a, 21, 25, 26a, 28, 36, 39
V	16, 19b, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26b, 37a
Compensating Aids permitted	
Upper limb	Hand hold / Rides 1 hand only / Connecting rein bar / Looped reins / Reins through ring on saddle

Lower limb	Seat saver / Raised pommel and/or cantle / No stirrups / Enclosed stirrups / Strap to girth / Rubber bands to stirrup
General	Salute with head only / ___whips(s)
Others	
Classifier:	
Date:	

International Classification

Any athlete seeking FEI classification, or FEI Medical Review if they already have FEI status, must apply through their National Federation (ESNZ) and meet all FEI guidelines for eligibility and timelines. Refer to the FEI website for more information.

ANNEX II

ESNZ PARA-EQUESTRIAN JUDGES

GRADES

There are four grades of judge for ESNZ Para-Equestrian Dressage events:

- International
- Official National
- National
- Candidate National

REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GRADE

International	Those judges who have completed and passed a FEI Para-Equestrian Judging Course and have the qualifications stated in Annex II of the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events.
Official National	Those judges who are ESNZ List A & Band who have passed an ESNZ or FEI Para-Equestrian Judges Course.
National	Those judges who are on ESNZ List C & D and who have passed an ESNZ or FEI Para-Equestrian Judges Course.
Candidate National	Those judges who are on ESNZ List A, B, C or D who have not yet completed and passed an ESNZ or FEI Para-Equestrian Judges Course.

CAPABILITY FOR EACH GRADE

Official National	Judges may judge at any ESNZ Para-Equestrian event; however it is recommended that they judge with an International Judge for National and Island Championships.
National	Judges may judge at local and regional ESNZ Para-Equestrian events however it is recommended that they judge with a higher graded Judge for Regional Events.
Candidate National	Judges may judge at local ESNZ Para-Equestrian events and should shadow judge at Regional level and above events.

Other requirements

To maintain a current ESNZ Para-Equestrian judge status all Judges will need to:

- Judge para equestrian classes at least three times within a year or competition season.
- Keep a record of every test that has been judged and every clinic attended in the official Dressage NZ record book.
- Maintain their DNZ Judges accreditation

ESNZ Para-Equestrian has the right to audit all records

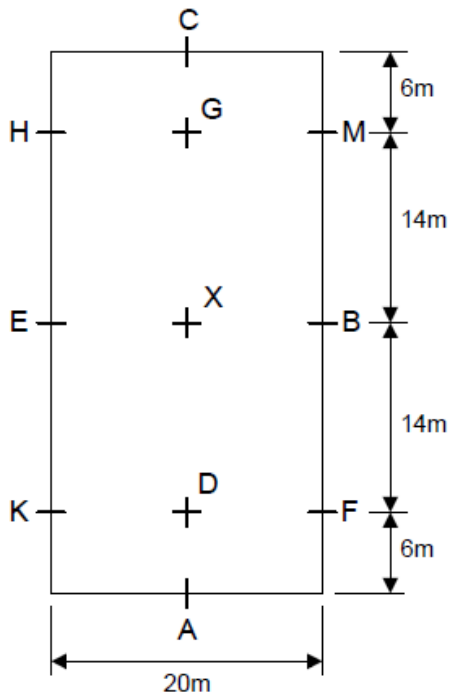
ESNZ Para-Equestrian judges who have remained inactive for a period of more than three years may be removed by the Para-Equestrian Committee from the list of ESNZ Para-Equestrian Dressage Judges.

All Para-Equestrian Dressage Judges have to attend at least one ESNZ or FEI Para-Equestrian Judges' Course every three years. If not, they may be removed from the ESNZ list by the Para-Equestrian Committee.

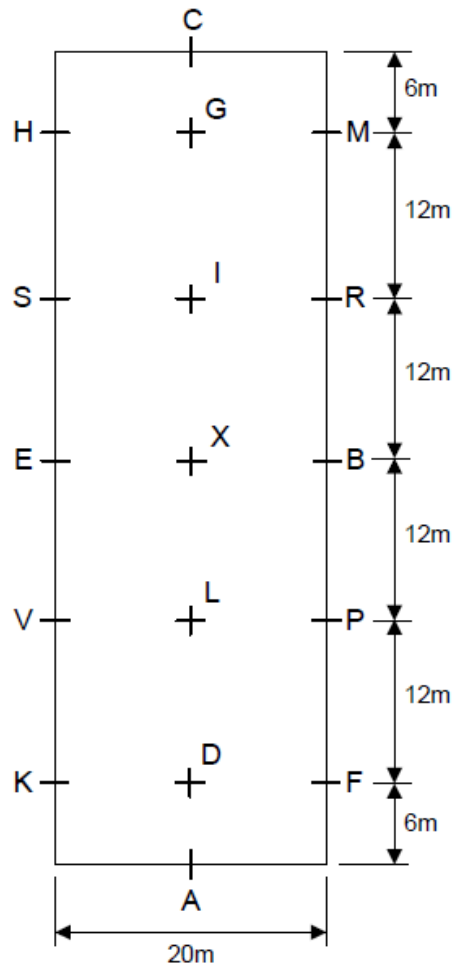
ANNEX III

ARENA SPECIFICATIONS

Arena
40m x 20m
Diagonal 44.721m



Arena
60m x 20m
Diagonal 63.245m



ANNEX IV

FEI COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE

FEI Compensating Aids for Para Equestrian																			
Profile Specific Compensating Aids																			
Profile	Grade	Voice	Raised Pommel or Cantle	Seat Saver	Hard hand hold	2 Whips	Foot Reins	Loop Reins	Connecting Rein Bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No Stirrups	Electronic Communication Device	Use of Sign Language	Callers	Beacon Beeper	Commander	
1 - 6	I	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y						As determined through the classification process and supporting medical documentation
7	I	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y						
8	III	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y						
9	II	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y						
10 a/b	II/III	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
11 a/b	II/III	Y		Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
12 a/b	I	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y						
13	I	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y						
14	III	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y						
15	IV			Y				Y	Y		Y	Y							
16	V								Y										
17a	III	Y		Y		Y					Y	Y	Y						
17b	IV			Y		Y					Y	Y	Y						
18a	III	Y		Y		Y					Y	Y	Y						
18b	IV			Y		Y					Y		Y						
19a	IV			Y							Y		Y						
19b	V			Y							Y								

Standard Compensating Aids

- *Not to be listed on the FEI Classification Master List.
- Salute with head only
- Sitting or Rising Trot
- Gloves & Spurs
- Saddle - any type
- Soft hand-hold
- Deep saddle
- Elastic bands on stirrups
- Enclosed or Magnetic Stirrups
- Breastplate and/or Neck Strap
- 1 whip
- Split rein on double bridle
- Elastic inserts in reins
- Safety vest (including inflatable)

Non Standard Compensating Aids.

These are aids or equipment not described on the table on the left

20	V					Y													
21	IV						Y	Y		Y									
22	V							Y		Y									
23	V																		
24	V							Y	Y										
25	IV					Y		Y											
26a	IV					Y		Y			Y								
26b	V					Y		Y											
27	II	Y		Y	Y				Y					Y					
28	IV			Y		Y													
31 a/b 32	II/III	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y						
36/37a	IV													Y			Y	Y	
38	N/A													Y	Y				
39	N/A																		
On Master List		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES

The need for these must be supported through the Classification process and the aid approved by the FEI Compensating Aids panel.

See application form on the FEI website

*Must be listed on the FEI Classification master list once approved.

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