



REMITs

Dressage NZ Planning Forum 2024

Date: 7pm - 9.30 pm Tuesday 23rd / Wednesday 24th April

By Zoom: Follow this link to register

Once you have registered you will be emailed a log on link

If all agenda items are completed during Session 1 on 23rd April, Session 2 on 24th April will be cancelled

Meeting access by will be Pre-Registration and approval only.

- Attendees must be current annual ESNZ members (Full Competitive, Full Child, Official or Life members) Membership number and expiry date will be required at time of registration
- Members have speaking rights at the meeting. Delegates and National Dressage Committee members have voting rights
- Registration details and Zoom link

Please register in advance for this meeting no later than 4pm Thursday 11th April

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Agenda items to follow

Remits from the Dressage Technical Committee unless otherwise stated

1. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 417.1

REMIT: change wording

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

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

RATIONALE:

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

PASSED/FAILED

1A: ART 417: EXCESSIVE USE OF WHIP: RIDERS REPS

Clarify excessive Use of Whip

Moved: Anna Gale /SI Riders Rep

Seconded: Fiora Au / NI Riders Rep

REMIT:

Use of whip

Excessive and/or misuse of the whip maybe considered abuse of Horse/Pony and will be reviewed case by case by the Ground Jury according to the following but not limited to the following principles.

- A) The whip is not to be used to vent an athlete temper
- B) The whip is not to be used after elimination.
- C) The whip is not to be used on a horse's head.
- D) Multiple excessive use of a whip throughout the test
- E) If a Horses skin is broken or has visible marks the use of the whip will always be deemed excessive.

RATIONALE: (Add separate pages or attachments if necessary)

As DNZ rules stand there is no explanation what is deemed as excessive use of the whip, DNZ use of whip rules need to be brought in line with other disciplines so therefore it becomes clear what is defined as excessive use of the whip.

PASSED/FAILED

Remits 3 -11 from the Dressage Technical Committee

2. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 420.3 STIRRUPS

Amend

REMIT: Delete words current rule

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

Delete – inside or

To ALIGN with FEI rules

PASSED/FAILED

3. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 422 - REINS

Remit: Amend wording

A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit. Reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material. *Rein additions or attachments, including knots, coloured tape or loops are not permitted without a Dressage NZ approved dispensation under Article 413*

PASSED/FAILED

4. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 423 EAR HOODS

REMIT: Add to current rule

Extra padding cannot be added to the ear hood, the ears must be able to move freely, anything that impedes freedom of movement is not allowed.

PASSED/FAILED

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

REMIT: Add to current rule

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

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

PASSED/FAILED

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

Amend

REMIT: Change wording

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 take part in the next round or competition at the event.~~

Replace with - To remount and continue to participate in the event and /or competition.

PASSED/FAILED

7. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 441.5 : 441.3 FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER

REMIT: ADD New wording

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, a fine not exceeding \$100 or an ESNZ Official warning

RATIONALE:

To signify the importance of riders being checked medically before continuing at the event, or driving home.

PASSED/FAILED

8. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 454.3

REMIT: Amend current wording

If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an *Event for any reason other than special competition, Art 407*, the horse must then compete Hors Concours in any further competitions at that Event. The change of rider must be notified to the OC and their approval for the substitution of the rider granted *by the TD or Ground Jury*. Refer to Article 412 - Competing "Hors Concours" for other restrictions.

RATIONALE:

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

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

PASSED/FAILED

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

Amend

REMIT: Amend current wording

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

RATIONALE:

It can use up a lot of time when judges all must get out of the cars to discuss missed movements, and it's a more discreet way of dealing with it, when everyone stays in their cars or boxes.

PASSED/FAILED

10. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 486.4 ARENA FAMILIARISATION

REMIT: Add to current rule

Any person leading a horse in an arena familiarisation, **must be wearing a correctly fitting yellow 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.

RATIONALE:

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

PASSED/FAILED

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

Amend

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

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

PASSED/FAILED

12. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 420.6 seat savers not allowed unless dispensation

REMIT:

Moved: Julie Malcolm: Judge/Coach

Seconded: Jody Hartstone: Rider/Coach

Amend

Allow seat savers

RATIONALE:

Currently seat savers are not allowed without dispensation.

Our pelvis/pelvic floor is not designed for the trauma associated with the forces generated by the horse. As people age the structures of the pelvic floor become thinner and less able to withstand this force.

Studies in UK and Europe have shown that over 80% of riders suffer pelvic, hip or back pain when riding. Many saddles are fitted for the horse but often don't fit their riders, forcing them to sit in compensatory patterns to avoid pain or stabilise themselves. Many just take painkillers!

Seat savers can enable some relief from this pain, or can be shimmed so that the rider can sit biomechanically correctly without the vast expense of changing saddles.

At present many riders who have age related changes feel embarrassed to apply for dispensation.

Allowing seat savers to be used (shimmed or unshimmed) would enable more riders to enjoy the sport and improve the welfare of the horse. Riders sitting in poor balance due to saddles that don't work for them affect the way of

going and muscle development of the horse. Allowing seat savers that can help the rider to be comfortable in their saddle allows greater participation as many folk find the saddle that fits their horse and compromise themselves.

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

Amend

Moved: Jody Hartstone

Seconded: Julie Malcolm

REMIT: That the minimum age for competing a horse be changed from three years of age to 4 years of age

RATIONALE:

We believe this is a simple and easy way to show that dressage in New Zealand is adapting and changing their rules to be kinder and fairer on the horse which is a vital part in keeping our social licence to operate

We realise that not many people DO compete 3 year old horses, but the fact that it is allowed means Dressage New Zealand condones the starting of horses in their two year old year in order for them to be ready to compete as a three year old.

We believe that the practice of riding horses so young can be detrimental to their mental and physical wellbeing and that setting a minimum age of Four years of age will go some way towards improving horse welfare and the public perception of the sport.

PASSED/FAILED

14. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 422.1 NOSEBANDS

Amend

Moved: Jody Hartstone

Seconded: Rebecca Kerr

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

RATIONALE:

We believe this is a simple and easy way to show that dressage in New Zealand is adapting and changing their rules to be kinder and fairer on the horse.

We realise that not many people wish to compete without a noseband, however the fact that the use of a noseband is compulsory, and riding without one will entail a 2 point penalty per judge means that the general riding and non-riding public view it as something we demand.

There is a vocal part of the equestrian community who would feel a lot better about the direction of our sport if we gave riders the choice of riding with either a noseband or not, at their discretion.

This is a small move that we believe could have a positive impact on our social licence to operate, without directly affecting the majority of riders competing

15. USE OF BITLESS BRIDLES

Moved: Gina Mabey

Seconded: Vanessa Way

Application for a rule change to allow use of a bitless bridle in Dressage Competition in New Zealand.

This application is made on the basis of Dressage becoming an all-inclusive sport where all equestrian riders can participate in Dressage with the horse's welfare as the number one priority. This is particularly in an era where public perception is vital to the continued existence of equestrian sports.

The public want to see happy, relaxed, and calm horses therefore by enabling riders to opt for bitless bridles when there are situations which warrant its use, such as injuries to the mouth area, dental issues, accidents, or illness that result in the horse no longer being comfortable using a traditional bridle with a bit. This would improve the public's perception of Dressage and its attention to animal welfare which can only benefit the longevity of equestrian sports.

By opening Dressage up to riders who wish to ride bitless, we are encouraging an all-inclusive sport. This would result in greater participation and as a result more growth within the dressage sector hence closing the divided among the equestrian community.

We are seeing a movement of riders from around the world questioning the ability to ride in a bitless bridle in the Dressage discipline. An example of this was on the 10th of March 2023, the World Bitless Association made an application to the FEI for modern bitless bridles to be used. Riders who opt for a Bitless solution are often looking for a way to create a more comfortable horse so that they can continue to enjoy the horse they have and still participate in the Dressage sport.

New Zealand could join the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation by allowing riders to opt for a bitless bridle and compete in local and regional competition initially at the lower levels. Pony club Australia have made the progressive change to allow riders to apply for an exemption to ride Bit-free on the grounds of horse welfare.

Netherlands bit-free riding is allowed up to 2/3rd level. Levels 1-3 as a trail and reassessing after 1-2 seasons with the possibility of it being extended to the higher levels later date.

Similar rules would need to apply to riders using bitless bridles as that of riders using a bit, in that they must not be used in such a way to cause harm or distress to the horses. Similarly, there is unlikely to be a safety issue surrounding the use of a bitless bridle, as both bitless and horses ridden using a bit can be unsafe when incorrectly trained or handled. Therefore, it would be handled in the same way by our stewards.

Dressage New Zealand must keep animal welfare to the forefront of all decision making moving forward as it is now in the spotlight of the public and their perception of animal welfare. It will determine the fate of our sport. Therefore, please take your time when considering this application as this could be a chance for Dressage New Zealand to move with the modern thought patterns of society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Mabey

The three bitless bridles I recommend for my remit are

The Side Pull

This is one of the mildest types of bitless bridles and very little discomfort to the horse, it works by applying direct pressure on the horses muzzle with no leverage action.

Cross Under

The cross under bitless bridle is a clever Design that was design that was developed by DR Robert Cook nearly two decades ago. It gives as much control over the horse as a bitted bridle making it ideal for transitioning riders.

The reins of the bridle connect to a strap that slides through a ring on either side of the noseband crossing under the horses jaw and running up the check to the poll. There it connects to the strap from opposite side of the head. The cross under design makes it possible for the rider to simultaneously apply pressure to the muzzle ,lower jaw ,cheek and pole.

Because of the bridles" headhug" mechanism, there are no pressure points that could develop into sores on horses head.

Wheel hackamore

Functions exactly the same as a side pull.

PASSED/FAILED

16. SCORING of PENALTIES & ERRORS

REMIT: Add to current rule

Amend (To align with ESNZ & FEI score sheets)

For all ESNZ Dressage tests – Two (2) points per judge. These penalties are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (incl Freestyles Test)

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Course Errors (Cumulative) | 1st -2 | 2nd -4 (=6) | 3rd Elimination | Minus Total Faults |
| Penalties - Minus 2 | Reason | | | Minus Total Penalties |

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

To be deducted / penalty points

Errors of course are penalised

1st error = 2 percentage points

2nd error = Elimination

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

PASSED/FAILED

17. RIDERS WITH DISPENSATIONS

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 413.5

REMIT: Add to current rule

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



RATIONALE

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

PASSED/FAILED

18. RULE CHANGES – PROPOSED CYCLE

ESNZ Bylaw 17.23

NEW

REMIT: Add to current rule

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

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

19. GRADING, DOWNGRADING & RELATED ART 410

Additions: Horses & Ponies

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Level 3/Grade 3 | Elementary & FEI Childrens Tests |
| Level 5 / Grade 5 | Advanced Medium & FEI Junior Tests |

PONIES & PONY RIDERS

Pony Level and grading as Art 410

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

Art 411.6

AGENDA ITEMS - DISCUSSION

1. FEES

This remit is not specifically covered in the Rule Book

****Fees are an annual policy decision recommended by the Board based on Budget requirements**

Moved: Carolyn Jones (Southland Delegate)

Seconded: Rochelle Robertson (Southland Chair)

REMIT: Remove the Centre Line cost for non-graded classes.

RATIONALE: To make entry fee for non-graded classes cheaper in order to encourage riders to participate in dressage. This reduction in entry fee may help with the financial constraints that may be discouraging these riders from taking part. We need to make our non-graded days as user friendly as possible, encouraging true grass-roots to enter our sport.

PASSED/FAILED

2. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canterbury Dressage Group would like to see a return of the National Championships to Christchurch. The South Island has not hosted a National Championships since 2013. We feel that in the eleven years that have since passed, the standard of horses and riding has made huge bounds ahead, to the point that now many of our South Island riders who travel north to compete are very competitive amongst their North Island counterparts. There are also many combinations who do not have the resources or time to travel north who would also be incredibly competitive and amongst the top placings. We understand that there may be North Island riders without the resources or time to travel South, but this is a 'roadblock' that a huge number of South Island riders face season after season.

The National Equestrian Centre in Christchurch has greatly improved infrastructure and arena surfaces and has the capacity to accommodate the number of horses and riders that a National Championship would bring as well as a beautifully manicured and maintained venue.

We would like to discuss the possibility of hosting the National Championships in 2027 – a year which is not an Olympic or World Championship year. The South Island has a large host of international quality horses working their way up through the grades currently, and while we don't have a crystal ball – we suspect many of these will be up the grades from Small Tour to Grand Prix by then, and potentially also pushing towards competing internationally. Our Advanced Medium classes this season have been dubbed the "mini Olympics".

The date of this championship would be up for discussion, as we have been made aware that the dates for the SJ calendar are up in the air and may be in for an overhaul. With SJ Nationals normally being held in Christchurch, we

would have this to work around – but this also potentially poses a great opportunity to run these ‘back to back’ and present a real show case of Equestrian Sport NZ in one location.

Finally, while the ultimate goal for Dressage NZ is to get riders competing on the world stage with success – it should be remembered that for the majority of riders here, our sport is a much loved hobby, and not a profession. There are a big number of riders in the South Island who are incredibly talented riders with lovely horses underneath them who just cannot drop everything and head off to the North Island to compete. Factoring in additional travel time, we are generally away from jobs, families and other commitments for well over a week. We feel that to support the riders that fall into the above categories, a return of the National Championships to the South Island once every three years (or so) would be a huge boost to these riders, and create a more even playing field between the SI and the NI riders.