



The Dressage NZ Review Committee Composition

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Conference 2018 gave Dressage NZ a mandate to investigate the adoption of the EA version of the USDF Tests and a review committee was appointed. Following the Test Review Committee meeting, a number of recommendations were made to the Dressage NZ Board meeting on 30/1/19. The Board supported the recommendations and now invite feedback from stakeholders as part of the consultation process agreed

Background:

- An opportunity has now presented itself for NZ to align with Australia by way of adopting the same dressage tests for use in our country. These tests are the latest new USDF tests slightly adapted by Equestrian Australia and we feel the time is right within our sports expectations and development to make the change to introduce these new tests and to align ourselves more within the Asia Pacific region.
- The advantage of having one body writing a complete set of tests is that the tests have a logical progressive development from one to the next, in a way which *cannot* be duplicated when tests are picked from a variety of sources. Last year USDF Dressage produced just this.
- Over the past several years, DNZ and Dressage Australia have been expanding their relationship in respect of a National Judges exchange and Judges Training. DNZ now has exchanges with several Australian States, with approximately 20 judges travelling yearly across the Tasman. This opportunity benefits the sport, with our judges expanding their knowledge and further developing their skill base, by observing and judging different combinations and officiating in a different environment

Benefits

- The Review Committee and the Dressage NZ Board agree believe these tests better support the ongoing growth and development of dressage in NZ, and that it will assist the growth pathway for both riders and judges. They have been written and designed to have a natural flow, good progression and to build a strong and systematic foundation from one level to another.
- NZL has an opportunity to align with the Equestrian Australia (EA) judges' system including their robust educational pathway which will include a few changes to NZL judges' levels. The Judges sub-committee place much merit in this.
- The test directives are very explanatory and helpful to both rider and judge.
- The changes proposed enable the AUS and NZL Federations to form a closer collaboration in respect of judge's and Officials development.
- Dressage Australia has indicated they are happy to provide educational and support material for both the tests and the judges education system

Link to the current EA tests: <http://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules>

Proposed Changes to the Tests and Levels in more detail

Level 0 (Introductory & Training)

Will continue to be non-graded with a mix of tests walk/trot, walk/trot/canter suitable for the transition to compete in graded tests. The actual tests are still to be confirmed

Levels 1 - 3 (Preliminary to Elementary)

Will show the same content as our current tests with each test building on the exercises introduced in the test before.

Levels 4 - 6 (Medium, Advanced Medium, and Advanced)

Level 4 (Medium) will remain very similar, with flying changes introduced at Level 5 (Advanced Medium) with sequence changes introduced at Level 6 (Advanced) – much as we do now. These levels transition very smoothly from one to the next and are slightly less challenging than our current tests. We believe the new tests will make these levels more accessible for more competitors, with the added advantage of competitors spending more time across the three levels developing an understanding, and consolidation of the qualities required for the FEI levels.

Currently NZ Advanced Grade comprises four Levels 6 (PSG), 7 (Int I), 8 (Int A/B) and 9 (GP):

(Refer to Dressage NZ rules Art 460)

Internationally there are three levels:

Small Tour

Tests include FEI Prix St Georges and FEI Intermediate 1 & Int I Freestyle

Medium Tour

Tests include FEI Intermediate A and FEI Intermediate B & Int A/B Freestyle

Big Tour

Tests include FEI Intermediare II, FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special & Grand Prix Freestyle Freestyle

Two years ago, DNZ split these three international levels into four levels

Level 6 - Prix St Georges | Level 7 – Int 1 | Level 8 – Int A and B | Level 9 – Int II and GP

It is recommended that Dressage NZ recombine these four levels back to three, with maybe a national test in the Small Tour between PSG and Inter 1 level, aligning with international standards.

Freestyles: Current NZL Freestyles will be slightly modified to align with the above

Benefits:

- Competitors will have more time to establish and gain confidence in Levels 4-6 (Medium, Advanced Medium and Advanced)
- The international pathway will be clearer for NZ riders by aligning with the International FEI levels
- Will offer further opportunities to include the Small tour level in NZ CDI's which will give riders international experience at the small tour levels before the additional demands of Medium and Big Tour tests

Currently	Proposed	Introduces
Level 0	Training	
Level 1	Preliminary	Working trot and canter, medium and free walks, 20m circles in trot and canter, stretch circle in trot, serpentine in trot
Level 2	Novice	10m half circle and full circle in trot, 15m circle in canter, lengthening of stride in trot and canter, leg yielding, change of lead through trot, counter canter
Level 3	Elementary	Walk-canter transitions, collected and medium trot and canter, 10m circle at canter, shoulder-in, rein back, half turn on hind-quarters, simple changes, counter canter in serpentine, Travers
Level 4	Medium	Extended paces, half pass at trot and canter, walk half pirouette, 10m trot circles, release of reins at canter
Level 5	Advanced Medium	Single flying change on both reins, very collected canter, counter changes of hand in trot, working partial pirouettes in canter, renvers
Level 6	Advanced	Counter changes of hand in trot and canter, tempi changes every 3 rd and 4 th stride, 10m half circle in counter canter, half working pirouettes in canter

Rules and NZL Grading System for Horses and Riders (Rider Categories)

It is anticipated no major changes will be required to the grading or rider category rules except that from the date of introduction, PSG and Int I will both be classified Level 7. It will be proposed that horses currently with PSG points (current Level 6) will have the option of remaining in new L6 (Advanced) with no requirement to downgrade, or compete and gain points in Level 7.

You will note the proposal to use wording for the levels, i.e. above, Preliminary, Novice etc with the level of test for example could be Preliminary Level 1 test.

The following is a table outlining the changes. Any changes to the points / grading system will need to be considered as a rule change by the Planning Meeting

Current	Proposed	
LEVEL 0	NO CHANGE	As per event schedule (NO CHANGE)
LEVEL 1 GRADE	Preliminary Level 1	Less than 30 points in Level 2 or above
LEVEL 2 GRADE	Novice Level 2	Less than 30 points in Level 3 or above
LEVEL 3 GRADE	Elementary Level 3	Less than 30 points in Level 4 or above
LEVEL 4 GRADE	Medium Level 4	Less than 30 points in Level 5 or above
LEVEL 5 GRADE	Advanced Med Level 5	Less than 30 points in CURRENT Level 6 or above
	Advanced Level 6	Less than 30pts in Levels 7-9 (ie unlimited L6 points)
ADVANCED GRADE - Levels 6,7,8,9 (PSG, Int I, Int A/B,GP)		
Levels 7 - 9 inclusive (Grade Name TBC)		
Grading of Horses & Ponies: Eligibility to be discussed in line with Art 460.3		
	Level 7 PSG & Int I	
	Level 8 Int A/B	
	Level 9 Grand Prix	

The Dressage NZ Board believes this is the way forward for our sport and looks forward to your support.

We look forward to feedback from all stakeholders.

Written feedback to review@nzquestrian.org.nz by 28/02/2019.

Members of the Test Review committee are also available to discuss any points