



## 2021/22 YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSE COMPETITIONS

### OVERVIEW

Participating events will offer age group competitions for 4,5,6 & 7yr old horses.

Local & Premier League Events are encouraged to offer these classes to promote the training and development of Young Dressage Horses and support their preparation for the three key events on the 21/22 calendar.

- 3-5 December 2021 | North Island Future Stars | Oro Dressage by the Lake @ Takapoto Estate
- 24-26 March 2022 | National Championships | Taupo NEC
- 2-3 April 2022 | South Island Future Stars | Dressage Canterbury McLean Island NEC

A calendar of Young Horse Classes for the 2021/22 Season will be available via the ESNZ Website and Dressage NZ Bulletin as dates become confirmed .

### RULES & CONDITIONS:

#### 1. Horse Eligibility

- The Official Age** of all horses will be calculated as per FEI Rules and DNZ article 461.3 (1st August for Southern Hemisphere born horses and 1st January for Northern Hemisphere born horses)
- Age & Breed Verification for Local, Regional & Premier League Events**  
It is the responsibility of the rider or person responsible to ensure that the correct age and breed of the horse is entered in the profile section of the ESNZ database and any Event Management system (eg EvoEvents) and that the horse is entered in the correct class
- Age & Breed Verification for National & Named Events**  
All eligible horses **MUST** have a Passport or Breed Papers

The only horses who do not need a passport or breed papers are those where there is no Studbook in NZ to register these horses with – eg: a true stationbred with no warmblood breeding.

The person responsible for these horses must provide a signed service certificate from the stallion owner proving the insemination took place on a particular date and also a signed statement from the breeder to state the breeding of the horse and date of birth. Supporting evidence such as vet accounts / certificates may be required to prove the age.

It is the responsibility of the rider or person responsible to ensure that the correct age and breed of the horse is denoted as verified and showing the green icon on the ESNZ database eg

Jamaica Cruzeiro do Sul 

- For North Island & South Island Future Stars, and the National Young Horse Championships, breed papers or passport or other Dressage NZ accepted verification of age/breed must be available by date of close of entries or the entry **will not be accepted**.

- Verified papers should be uploaded to EvoEvents by date of close of entry
- The correct sire / dam / damsire / breed and breeder must also be recorded on the horse's profile on the ESNZ database, EvoEvents or any other entry management system
- It is the responsibility of the rider or person responsible to ensure that the horse is entered in the correct class

### **Unsure if your documentation / verification is satisfactory?**

Please contact **Jody Hartstone** [jody@hartstoneequestrian.com](mailto:jody@hartstoneequestrian.com)

Please do not contact Event Secretaries with verification queries

c) **Height:** Horses must exceed 148 cm with shoes

## **2. Rider Eligibility**

- Riders must be current competitive members of ESNZ to compete in Young Dressage Horse competitions
- Rider Age: Riders may compete in YDH competitions from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 12 years of age.

## **3. Dress Code**

- Dress Code applies (as per DNZ article 479 Events for all Young Horse Classes held at all categories of events.
- Dressage NZ dispensations do not apply and the use of any rider compensating aids is not permitted

## **4. Whips**

A whip (total maximum length of 120 cm including flapper) is permitted to be carried in all young dressage horse classes at all categories of events

## **5. Commanding**

Where riders are permitted to use their own commander in any test, this commander should stand at E or B and on the opposite side from the judges

## **6. Saddlery**

- 4, 5 and 6 year old horses must be ridden in a snaffle bridle.
- The Mexican/Crossed noseband is not permitted
- The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece of the snaffle bit must be at least 12mm
- 7 year old horses may be ridden in a snaffle or double bridle. The double bridle must comply with Art 477

## **7. Grading Points**

No grading points are allocated for young dressage horse age group competitions

## **8. Tests**

The 2021 Dressage NZ Tests for 4,5,6yr old horses must be used

Link to the tests <https://www.nzquestrian.org.nz/disciplines/dressage/resources/dressage-tests/>

The FEI 7yr old tests for 7year old classes to be used

## **9. Rules**

Unless specifically stated in this document, all ESNZ Rules for Dressage apply.

YDH Rules 21/22 Effective 1 September 2021

V\_Final\_15\_9\_21

## 10. Competition Format

Competition	Local and PL Shows	NI / SI Future Stars and National Finals
Horse Age Groups	May Include 4,5,6,7 year olds	4,5,6,7 year olds
Rounds:	One round only, using Round 1 Tests	Two Rounds using Round 1 Test in first round, Round 2 Test in second round.  Scores from the first two rounds are added together to decide the top 2 horses in each age group.  These two horses will be recalled to be and ridden in front of the judges before Champion and Reserve are announced. Commentary – no further judging  Scores from the second round are to be withheld until the announcement of Champion & Reserve
Tests:	NZL YDH tests, FEI 7 yr old test (All tests to be ridden individually)	NZL YDH tests, FEI 7 yr old test  For 4, 5, 6 yr olds First round tests may be ridden in groups of two horses or individually at the OC's discretion  Second round tests must be ridden individually
Trot Work:	All trot work in YDH tests to be ridden as specified in the test	All trot work in YDH tests to be ridden as specified in the test
Commanding:	Tests may be commanded.  Caller to stand at E or B and on the opposite side from the judges	Only Round 1 test may be commanded  Caller to stand at E or B and on the opposite side from the judges. If the first round is ridden in groups of two the OC will provide the Caller
Qualifying:	No previous qualification necessary	No previous qualification necessary.  If numbers are restricted then balloting may be required at the OC's discretion. If balloting is required priority will be given to horses who have scored at least 65% at a Premier League Event in YDH classes
Participation:	Horses are required to be ESNZ registered but do not require a discipline Annual Start.  Horses may enter in an age group lower than their age but must compete H/C	Horses must have current ESNZ registration and have a discipline Annual Start.  All horses must be denoted as age verified the ESNZ website with the "Verified" Shield at date of close of entries or entries will not be accepted

## 11. Scoring

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V\_Final\_15\_9\_21

- a) The Young Dressage Horse Score sheets apply.
- b) Errors of Course: As per the test sheets
- b) Flying changes are optional in the 6 yr old tests and may be replaced by a simple change. This will not be penalised in the overall perspective and submission mark. A well-executed simple change will be taken into equal consideration as a well-executed flying change.

## 12. Judges

- i. All judges and YDH specialists must adhere to the requirement of Rule DNZ rule Conflict of Interest and declare any conflict of interest if asked to officiate .
- ii. The judges should sit together at E or B, however, where the arena layout does not provide room for this positioning, the judges may sit together at C
- iii. Where there are two rounds, in the 4,5, and 6 yr old classes, where possible, the first round is judged by the judges from E or B, and the second round is judged from C.
- iii. It is recommended that there should be commentary by the judging panel made available to the public during the second round or, if possible, both rounds at the North and South Island Future Stars and National Championships. There shall be commentary of the top two horses who are called back to the arena before the final champion and reserve are announced. Commentary is also permissible at other events at the discretion of the OC.

### **National Championships and North and South Island Future Stars:**

The appointment of all judges for these events should follow the below guide-lines. If these guidelines are unable to be met, any changes are to be approved by the DNZ Judges sub-committee.

- a) All rounds of 4,5 and 6yo old competitions must be judged by either two FEI Young Horse judges or one FEI Young Horse judge plus one judge who is a NZL National A or B Accredited Young Horse judge or foreign equivalent. There may be a third judge who is recognised as a Young Horse specialist by Dressage NZ (eg Grand Prix Trainer or Rider). Application to use a YH specialist must be made to the Judges Subcommittee and be endorsed by the Dressage NZ Board .
- b) For 7yo competitions, in addition to the two judges, one technical judge of at least NZ List A or B level, or equivalent foreign level judge sits at C to assess the technical execution of the test. The two other judges as above, sit together at E or B to judge the quality and standard of training as per the Young Horse assessment format.

### **Premier League**

All competitions must be judged by two judges.

Judges should be either FEI Young Horse judges and/or with a maximum of one judge on the panel being a NZL National List B Accredited Young Horse judge or foreign equivalent OR NZL National List A accredited YH judge, accompanied by a NZ National list B judge.

In the 7 year old competition there must be a third judge to assess the technical components who must be at least NZ List B level or foreign equivalent.

### **Local**

- i. At Local competitions, one judge in a panel of 2 must be a List C judge or above, and to have attended a YDH clinic within the previous 2 years from the start of the competition season the show is being held in.
- ii. For 7yrs old competitions, the Judge at C must be List B and above.

## 10. Guidelines for Riders and Judges

Judges will award a mark out of 10 (decimal points are permitted) for walk, trot, canter, submission and perspective as a dressage horse. Judges must consider the following questions when making their assessments:

- is the horse clearly demonstrating correct education according to the training scale?
- does the horse demonstrate a desirable picture of a dressage horse?

The fundamental criteria of paces, submission and perspective as a dressage horse are evaluated as follows:

a) the steps and strides must be in a regular rhythm and free from tension

b) keeping in mind the training level of the horse, special emphasis should be placed on:

- a smooth and steady contact
- the willing acceptance of the bit
- a submissive poll in the three basic paces and in the different tempi and the transitions
- flexion and bending
- the harmonious development on both reins
- suppleness
- desire to go forward
- ability to engage the hindquarters
- potential to collect.

c) during the initial movements of the test, horses that shall show signs of tension and concentration lapses, or even shying or unsettled behaviour, should be judged more benevolently than in a normal dressage and minor mistakes should not be given weight if, in principle, the horse is demonstrating good movements and is demonstrating the adoption by the trainer of desirable training technique.

d) It is recommended that one of the judges provides a commentary after the completion of each horse's test in at least the second round but preferably for both the first and second rounds of the North and South Island Future Stars and NZ National Finals. This commentary is mainly for the benefit of spectators and the main purpose is to explain the rideability and strengths of the individual horse in relation to the demands at each level of competition, the quality of the three basic paces, and the horse's ability to perform as an International / FEI Level dressage horse

e) See FEI Dressage Handbook for further notes on the purpose of and judging of Young Horse Competitions

f) For the 7 year old competitions the technical judge is looking at the way the horse copes with the demands of the test and the adjustability shown with the more difficult exercises asked for and the demand for collection, engagement and mobility. All judges have a clear focus on basics, a clear rhythm, sufficient swing in the back and engagement of the hindquarters, acceptance of the contact, lateral bend and suppleness. That the horse is balanced and straight in the work without tension and able to execute the flying changes and 1/2 pirouettes correctly.

The technical and quality scores are added together.

## 11. Ponies

It is hoped that in the 2022-23 season these rules will be expanded to include ponies.