

PONY CLUB
QUEENSLAND

RULES FOR DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING

JANUARY 2024

Please Note: All rule changes for 2024 appear in this rule book in red

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GENERAL RULES – effective 1st January, 2024

To be read in conjunction with rules for the specific competition.

1. RULES:

All competitors ride under Pony Club Queensland Rules. The making of an entry in any event run by PCQ, or a club or organisation affiliated with PCQ constitutes acceptance of these rules.

2. MEMBERSHIP

All athletes must be current financial members of an affiliated Pony Club and carry their current Membership Card as proof. An official from each club must guarantee all their athletes are current financial members and are entered and competing in their correct age group.

3. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Reference should also be made to **Pony Club Queensland Codes of Behaviour** <https://ponyclubqld.com.au/resources/rulebooks/policies/> and the Pony Club Australia Code of Conduct <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/about-us/resources/>

4. WELFARE OF THE HORSE

Pony Club Australia expects all those involved in national equestrian sport to adhere to the PCA's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

- a. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.
- b. Horses and Athletes must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
- c. Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
- d. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.
- e. PCA urges all involved with the sport to attain the highest levels of education in their areas of expertise. (see also blood rule and 19A abuse of horse)

5. DISCIPLINE

- a. Abusive and profane language or bad behaviour by the athlete may result in disqualification for the rest of the event during which the offence occurs.
- b. A competitor who refuses to obey the direction of any officiating steward may be refused the right of competing in any further events.
- c. A repetition by the same competitor will mean disqualification for the remainder of the day's programme, together with loss of all points gained up to the time of the repeated offence. An event judge should refer any breach of discipline rules to the judge in chief or event organisers.

d. Competitors and mounts are disqualified together.

6. AGE.

Athlete

Competitors must stay in their own age groups throughout the day in all individual or teams events, and cannot transfer to another age group.

An official of the club must guarantee the age of the competitors. Age is at first day of competition.

At a State Event minimum age for participation is seven (7) years.

Horse

The age of the horse is at the 1st January.

The horse must be at least:

two (2) years of age to participate in any ridden pony club activity,

four (4) years to jump in competitions

three (3) years to compete in dressage competitions (both official and unofficial).

7. DIVISION OF CLASSES

The PCQ Steward (Technical Delegate) or Judge-in-Chief at State Championships and Official events has right to divide classes as necessary for the running of the event. (Oct.90)

Jumping Equitation, Dressage, Combined Training, & Horse Trials – groups of over 30 athletes but less than 40 athletes **may be divided** into two groups, but **must be divided** when numbers exceed 40. This will be done by virtue of the draw e.g., first 40 into group 1, next 40 into group 2 etc. There is no option to divide a group with less than 30 athletes.

State Formal Gymkhana age groups to be split into year levels i.e., 9 years & under; 10 years; 11 years; 12 years; 13 years; 14 years; 15 years; 16 years; 17 & under 26 years.

Showjumping: There is no division of groups no matter what the size. (Aug 2014)

8. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Outside aid to a competitor during the event, whether solicited or not, will entail disqualification for the competitor except when permitted by specific discipline rules Occurrences such as the following will be considered as outside aid:

- calling advice to a competitor, e.g. Directions – turn left at peg. *This does not apply in Showjumping Competitions or Showjumping phase of a competition;*
- picking up competitor's equipment (except spectacles);
- any other occurrence which in the opinion of the judge is assistance to the competitor, or is listed in the rules of the competition;

Sporting Events, no horse may be held or any outside assistance allowed after the Judge has called the athlete into the starting area, except for children 8 years and under, at the discretion of the judge, and special assisted groups.

NB Handing back an athlete's spectacles is **NOT** classified as outside assistance

9. LEAD REIN/ASSISTED ATHLETES

The leader must not be in front of the horse's shoulder. It is the responsibility of the parent to appoint a suitable handler/assistant for the horse and athlete safety.

Assisted athletes being led because of documented disability will be able to be competitive in their age group.

Athletes who are riding “free” and who successfully complete the course, must take the placings over athletes whose horses are being led, except as in paragraph above.

Recommend led and free athletes be in separate groups where numbers are sufficient.

Led any age is not competitive unless athlete has Exemption through Sports Connect System.

10. SCHOOLING

On the day of the event only competitors may ride their own horse.

Schooling will not be allowed on any area, which is part of the competition.

Body Protector: The use of a Body Protector is recommended while jumping in competitions or training for Showjumping. Body Protectors are **compulsory for schooling** and competing over cross-country fences at any time. From Jan1, 2021 body protectors must be manufactured after 2009 and the label complies to one of these: BETA 2018 Level 3, BETA 2209 Level 3, EIN13158:2009 Level 3. (Jan 2021)

11. LUNGEING

Wherever possible a designated area should be set aside for lungeing, but should not be allowed where horses are being ridden.

Horses may be only be lunged in warm up and training areas if:

By the nominated athlete, parent, or a club instructor, (if the athlete is too young to control the horse.)

If a suitable area can be found, which is **not** amongst horses being ridden.

Single direct side reins are permitted, but only while lunging (only with one lunge rein).

The lungeing of an athlete mounted in the saddle is NOT PERMITTED anywhere at a dressage event

In Dressage ear muffs are only permitted when lungeing (refer dressage rules)

12. GEAR CHECK (Refer PCA National Gear Rules)

The responsibility for the use of the correct saddlery and equipment according to the rules of PCA and the specific competition rests with the competitor. Failure to comply with the rules may entail elimination from the competition. All gear should be inspected by a steward prior to any events to ensure it complies with PCA rules, is correctly fitted and comfortable for the horse. Wherever possible, a marshalling yard should be provided for competitors in events.

The final responsibility, especially for safety of saddlery and equipment, rests with the athlete.

Gear check is a compliance check rather than a safety check and it is the responsibility of athletes to ensure their gear is safe, should any gear inspection reveal any gear which appears to the gear check steward that it may be unsuitable, the athlete should be advised immediately and sent away to adjust the equipment and return for a further gear check before competing.

Failure to do so could result in disqualification.

13. USE OF WHIP

Hitting the horse in front of the saddle incurs no penalty.

Excessive use of whip incurs a warning or penalty or elimination at the discretion of the judge.

A whip is not to be used more than three (3) times for any other incident. (Refer Article 243, SJ Rule Book)

Whip must be carried in the hand.

Whips may be carried and thrown away during the event.

14. USE OF SPURS/BLOOD POLICY.

The Pony Club Queensland has a zero tolerance blood policy. If any horse shows blood or signs of bleeding on its side which was caused by, or may have been caused by the use of spurs, it must immediately be retired for the day from the competition, event or rally/muster. The horse must be immediately unsaddled and the scrape, cut or wound immediately attended to. Under no circumstances is the horse to be ridden at Pony Club again that day. The use of spurs in a cruel manner will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete from the competition.

15. JUDGES

Judge has the right to call on any competitor to inspect his gear and if gear is illegal, competitor is compelled to remove offending article before competing. Judges should be PCQ instructors for gymkhanas or from a list of suitably accredited Judges or Course Builders for specific disciplines.

Judges cannot judge their own children, horses, close relative, regular students or athletes they have trained within the previous week, in subjective disciplines such as Athlete Class, Dressage, jumping Equitation etc.

Neither may these judges accept private billeted accommodation or other gratuity from/to a competitor scheduled to be in the competition they are judging.

Judges may refuse to judge novelty events at shows or gymkhanas if the programme states "run under PCQ Rules" and the events are not then conducted under the rules of the PCQ.J

Judges must present themselves suitably attired.

16. DISPUTES COMMITTEE

The Disputes Committee is made up of one senior delegate from each club competing (except where rules for specific events vary). Any delegate whose member is in dispute, or may have, or appear to have, a conflict of interest, must not sit on the Committee.

17. UNIFORM

Correct club uniform must be worn in all competitions, except where Zone or Queensland uniform is permitted. The wearing of vest is optional. The wearing of other apparel or the incorrect wearing of the uniform is not acceptable and could result in disqualification at all events from gymkhanas to championships. Check your own Zone & neighbouring Zone's colours before applying for colours or change of colours, so that they do not clash with other Clubs who may compete in your area. At all times when mounted athletes must be neatly dressed in their correct uniform, be it a shirt and tie or a ratcatcher shirt, including tie and with

sleeves rolled down and shirt tucked in. Ties may be removed or sleeves rolled up only if authorised by the judge in chief and an official announcement is made. (Please be familiar with UNIFORM VARIATION FOR CAMPDRAFT AND STOCKMAN'S CHALLENGE – Club & Zone Events only)

18. HELMET

An equestrian helmet, colour white, black, navy blue or brown and tested to one of the acceptable standards, AS/NZ 3838, EN 1384 or ASTM F1163 or better, must be worn **and effectively secured** whenever mounted under Pony Club supervision, including to & from the Pony Club - this includes seniors & instructors.

There are to be NO attachments to helmets (no modified or additional equipment e.g. GoPros or Lights)

Candidates at Instructor Schools must wear helmets. Mounted Voluntary Helpers must wear helmets.

Athletes must keep helmets on during Mounted Presentation of Awards & while saluting. Loss of helmet while riding incurs elimination

19. FIXTURE

A fixture shall be defined as one programme held on one or more days by the one organising committee.

20. MOUNTS (refer also General Rules - Age Page 5)

The mount should be the member's normal pony club mount and regularly ridden to Pony Club.

Athletes currently competing in Official 12 and Under or Official 13 & Under 26 classes cannot ride an Official 12 and under or Official 13 & Under 26 horse in an unofficial section.

No stallion, colt, entire or rig is eligible to take part in any Event, Competition or otherwise at any function conducted by the Pony Club Association or any of its Affiliated Clubs whatsoever.

While a horse is out of the stable/yard at any pony club activity, horse must be restrained with a headstall and lead or a bridle.

All horse athletes and handlers within these grounds must wear approved safety helmets while mounted and correct footwear i.e. closed footwear.

A mount must be one of the following:

owner ridden

leased

owned by a financial member of the same club.

At all pony club fixtures, a mount may only have one athlete.

However,

where a combination of events are held over two or more days, a mount may have a different athlete if the events are held on different days. e.g. dressage on day 1 and the dressage phase of combined training or eventing on day 2.

At all pony club fixtures, an athlete may only have one mount, except as outlined below under Two Horse Rule:

21. Two Horse Rule:

Sporting & Gymkhana – at the discretion of the organising committee, athletes may enter 2 horses in the following way:

Athletes may only enter 2 horses in the same age group

Both horses must be fully saddled to avoid any loss of time by swapping gear at each event

Each horse may gain qualifying results

Each horse may be placed in its class and is eligible for overall awards

2nd horse to be held by a competent person

In the event of a formal class being held at a sporting Gymkhana, it is up to the organising committee to decide on the eligibility/use of the 2nd horse and should be outlined in the conditions in the program

Where Mounted Games are held in conjunction a different horse maybe used

Campdraft and Stockman's Challenge – at the discretion of the organising committee, athletes may enter 2 horses in the following way:

Athletes may only enter 2 horses in the same age group

At the discretion of the organising committee, only 1 or both horses must be fully mounted

Each horse may gain qualifying results

Each horse will be placed in its class and is eligible for overall awards

2nd horse to be held by a competent person

From 1st January 2018, the 2 competitive horse rule currently existing for Showjumping will be applied to **Horse Trials, Dressage, Combined Training and Jumping Equitation** at the discretion of the organising committee athletes may enter 2 horses in the following way:

In the same or different grades/heights. (see specific discipline)

Showjumping & Jumping Equitation:

Showjumping: Athletes may enter two horses in the same or different heights

Jumping Equitation: Athletes may enter two horses in the same or different height

22. **DANGEROUS RIDING/ABUSE OF HORSE**

Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of the Technical Delegate, can clearly be identified, shall be penalised by elimination.

Similarly, any athlete who affects the safety of any horse, athlete or third party will be considered to have acted dangerously and will be penalised by elimination.

Abuse of horse includes:

- excessive use of whip and/or spurs, (Also see Para.33a)
- rapping
- riding an exhausted horse
- excessive pressing of a tired horse
- riding an obviously lame horse

Officials must report such actions as soon as possible to the Technical Delegate supported where possible by a statement from one or more witnesses. The Technical Delegate must decide if there is a case to be answered.

23. DOPING

It is forbidden to use or administer, or cause to be used or administered, on or to any horse, a tranquiliser, stimulant, or drug of any kind, in any manner whatsoever, either before or during any Pony Club activity or competition.

24. ALCOHOL

Alcohol may not be consumed on grounds and booths are not permitted to open at functions under Pony Club control, which are attended by Pony Club members with their horses, until all competition and presentation has been completed for the day or at rally days or musters until all riding activities have ceased. For further information on our Alcohol Policy can be read on our website www.ponyclubqld.com.au

25. DOGS

Dogs must be kept away from the competition area, and kept on a leash and under control at all times. When tied up, dogs must not be able to move outside the perimeter of the vehicle. Be aware dogs are prohibited by law on some grounds and this should be stated on the program.

26. LEASED HORSES

Anyone who wishes to ride at Pony Club, a horse which does not belong to them or to another member of their Club, must have a lease on the horse.

If the horse belongs to a person who is a member of another Club, or is not a member of Pony Club at all, a lease must be signed and registered with PCQ. Lease forms are obtainable from PCQ Office. **NB** Note 3-week rule as per lease form to use the horse in competition, and lease must be in effect for six (6) months.

27. SUBSTITUTION

Mounts may be substituted before the commencement of the event upon presentation of a Veterinary Certificate or a written statement from the club chief instructor. If such substitution is made, the replacement mount must be eligible within the terms of the PCQ Rules.

NO substitution of athlete is permitted under any circumstances.

28. REFUND OF NOMINATIONS

Prior nominations will be refunded providing the Organising Body is advised of the scratching in writing or by telephone before the commencement of the event. A written request for a refund of nomination, including a vet or doctor's certificate to be received by the organising committee within one week of the event. 10% of the entry fee may be retained by the organising committee to cover administration costs.

29. STATE PROGRAMMES

Athletes stay in their age groups and within their Zone - no composite teams.
Exception Mounted Games.

30. FIRST AID. Refer to the PCA Minimum Medical Standards

The First Aid person must have no other duties and should wear a clearly visible

bib or armband designating this duty.
A First Aid station must be provided.

31. PROGRAMME

A programme should be published by the organisers not less than six weeks before the event.

A copy **MUST** be sent to PCQ for approval before it is printed and distributed for *an Official competition or a competition which is to be used as a qualifier for State Championships.*

A Gymkhana or Open Day programme MUST be sent to the Zone Chief Instructor for approval before it is printed and distributed.

Bareback Athlete Class may be included on the Gymkhana program, remainder of program requires a saddle.

Horse trial venues can offer programs that-

Official courses do not have to offer all official levels

Official courses offering all official levels of courses up to two star

All the above will comply with the requirements and conditions in Annex 1.

The programme need not repeat the Rules contained in this Rule Book except *where required.* Programme should include: Pic No.; place and date of event; Classes to be held; name and address of Organising Secretary; Chief Steward and PCQ Steward (Technical Delegate, where known); trophies and prizes to be awarded; closing date and conditions for entries; how the draw is to be accessed e.g., email, website; administrative arrangements such as stabling, accommodation, catering, etc.

First Aid; Refer to PCA Minimum Medical Standards

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Minimum-Medical-Standards-for-Pony-Club-Guidelines-2023.pdf>

Disclaimer of Liability clause (see below), and Organisers' Reservation of Right (see below).

32. DISCLAIMER

Neither the organising committee of any contest to which these rules apply, nor the PCQ, accept any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, athletes, ground, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.

This Disclaimer must be printed on all programmes.

33. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Organisers reserve the right:

- to cancel any class or event.
- to divide any class.
- to alter the advertised times
- to refuse any entry, with or without stating the reason
- to transfer competitors between sections of a class
- to combine classes if less than 3 competitors

This reservation must be printed on all programmes

To be read in conjunction with rules for the specific competition.

34. QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All athletes nominating must have attended at least TWO musters/rallies within the preceding 12 month period at their club or previous club in the case of transfers

AND athletes under 13 years are required to hold a minimum “D” Certificate (Aug.10); athletes 13 years and under 26 years are required to hold a minimum “C” Certificate **or equivalent State CI Medal (2023).**

Proof of the Certificate will be required with the nomination.

Club Secretary to check all requirements for nomination are complete and correct before forwarding to zone.

However:

When nominations are done online, after the close of nominations the organising committee to send a summary list of nominees, certificates attained and qualifying results to Zone for confirmation before nominations are accepted

Athletes to complete nomination correctly as incomplete forms will be returned. Athletes found not to be qualified may be stopped from competing.

For comprehensive update on Qualifying Criteria for State Events **AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC DISCIPLINES** can be found on the PCQ website - Events/Results - State Championships <https://ponyclubqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-Qualifying-Criteria-for-State-Events.pdf>

35. OPEN DAYS

All participants must comply with **competition**, equipment and dress rules of Pony Club, specifically with regard to Helmets, Boots, Spurs and Equipment.

All Open Days must be pre-approved and signed by your Zone Secretary prior to being forwarded to PCQ by the Club Secretary 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

All non-pony club riders MUST sign the Day Participants Event Waiver and Liability Declaration and pay required fee.

<https://ponyclubqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Day-Participant-Event-Waiver-and-Liability-Declaration-Pony-Club-Australia.pdf>

Open Day Process:

- **Programme to be approved by Zone.**
- **Event recorded on the PCQ Open Day Calendar**
- **The minimum requirements for Showjumping Competitions: Competitions require PCQ/EA course builder and judge. Training over a course requires PCQ/EA course builder.**

Forward fees for non-PCQ athletes within 14 days of the event. (Refer to Schedule of Open Days – Forms page of the PCQ website)

36. FALLS

Fall of an Athlete

- An athlete is considered to have fallen if he/she touches the ground or finds it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of support or outside assistance.
- If it is not clear that the athlete has used some form of support or outside assistance to prevent his/her fall, the benefit of doubt must be given to the athlete.

Fall of a Horse

- iii. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters have touched the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
- iv. If an Athlete or Horse have a fall prior to starting an event, during the event, after crossing the finishing line, in the practice arena or elsewhere within the grounds of the event, the athlete must be cleared by the event's medical service, or vet/TD/Chief Steward for the horse, before the athlete may be permitted to take further part in the event or competition at the event,

After a fall of athlete, final responsibility of the health and welfare of the athlete rests with the parent/guardian **verified with a signed document by the parent/guardian and recorded, as soon as possible following the incident, on the PCA Incident Report App. (Dec 2020).**

37. RIBBONS

Recommended colours for ribbons: 1st Blue, 2nd Red, 3rd White, 4th Yellow, 5th Green

38. EXEMPTION CARDS – Athletes with a Disability:

Athletes with disabilities are eligible to apply for a PCA Athlete Exemption Card to enable the use of adaptive equipment and other assistance as per relevant recommendations.

Para Equestrian athletes are eligible to be classified and obtain an EA PE ID card from the beginning of the year in which they turn 12 years of age.

Para Equestrian athletes who enter able bodied competitions must provide a copy of the EA PE ID card.

39. ADVERTISING & PUBLICITY – COMPETITORS & HORSES

Competitors may carry the logo of the sponsor on the saddle cloth, only when competing in a State Team. The size of the logo may not exceed 100sq cm.

Advertising may appear on obstacles, sides of arena, back numbers, rugs and as approved by PCQ.

Prizes bearing the name of the sponsor e.g., rugs, may be placed on horses at the presentation of awards.

40. MOBILE PHONES (Nov, 2018)

Not to be used while on horseback. In a competition, an athlete breaching this rule may be eliminated.

RULES FOR DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

Effective January, **2024**

1(a) CODE OF CONDUCT

1. In all equestrian sports the horse must be considered paramount.
2. The wellbeing of the horse shall be above the demands of breeders, trainers, riders, owners, dealers, organisers, sponsors or officials.
3. All handling and veterinary treatment must ensure the health and welfare of the horse.
4. The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times.
5. Adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment during transportation.
6. Emphasis should be placed on increasing education in training and equestrian practices and on promoting scientific studies in equine health.
7. In the interest of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider shall be regarded as essential.
8. All riding and training methods must take account of the horse as a living entity and must not include any technique considered by the FEI to be abusive.
9. National Federations should establish adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the horse.
10. The national and international Rules and Regulations in equestrian sport regarding the health and welfare of the horse must be adhered to not only during national and international events, but also in training. Competition Rules and Regulations shall be continually reviewed to ensure such welfare.

1(b) DEFINITIONS

A Dressage Event is composed of one or more competitions between individual mounted competitors, performing specified Dressage tests.

The term 'bell' includes any device used to signal to a competitor.

The term 'level' refers to the standards of test available. The levels are:

10 years and under

11 years and under 13 years (Jan.94)

13 years and under 26 years

(Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium)

Seniors

Unofficial

The term 'Organising Committee' refers to an Organisation, Zone, Club or Committee which is responsible for the management of an event.

The terms 'Warm Up Arena' and 'Training Area' refer to the entire area covered by the venue where an event is advertised as being held.

2. RULES

Dressage Competitions are conducted under the rules of the Pony Club Association of Queensland Inc. (PCQ) and must be followed by all bodies running Pony Club Dressage events. They follow as closely as possible the rules laid down by the FEI as published by the Equestrian Australia (EA) and are printed with suitable amendments for Pony Club by kind permission of the EFA (Sept.87). Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the PCQ Steward to make a decision in a sporting spirit and adhering as closely as possible to the intention of these rules.

3. APPLICATION

For permission to hold an Official Dressage Event, application **must** be made in writing to PCQ by 1st November each year. Second round of applications may be considered if received by 1st March.

An official event is one which is approved by PCQ; and where performances are considered for selection purposes, where applicable. Unofficial events are run under the same rules and regulations.

Official Days and Zone Championships are qualifying events for State Championships.

Programme must be submitted for approval before being sent out and Judge's names must be submitted for approval and drawn from the Official list. If an EFA judge is used this must be stated on the form. **If judges change, the PCQ office must be advised.**

A programme should be published by the organisers not less than six weeks before the event. A copy must be sent to PCQ for approval before it is printed and distributed. The programme need not repeat the Rules contained in this Rule Book, but should include:

- Place and date of event with brief instructions of how to reach venue
- Classes to be held (all grades to be offered)
- Name & address to which nominations are to be sent.
- Closing date and conditions for entries
- Information as to when and where draw may be accessed, or request for email address to which draw may be sent or, alternatively, stamped self-addressed envelope in which draw may be mailed to club nomination secretary.
- Administrative arrangements, such as stabling, accommodation and catering.
- Disclaimer of liability
- Organisers' Reservation of Rights

4. OFFICIAL DRESSAGE TESTS

Equestrian Australia Dressage Tests are to be used for all programs, PCQ Dressage Tests no longer apply

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/news/2023-dressage-rules-and-tests-update>

5. COMMANDED TESTS

Any of the tests may, with the permission of the organisation conducting the tests, be commanded. Where commanders are allowed, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text or extracts is read out and that no other form of assistance is given. The caller may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination.

Commanded tests are not permitted for the Dressage phase of Combined Training or Horse Trials.

Riders are not permitted to wear headphones during a test.

6. CLASSES

In Official competitions the following applies:

- a) Under 11 years - Preliminary Tests
- b) 11 years & under 13 years – Preliminary Tests
- c) 11 years & under 13 years - Preliminary and Novice tests
- d) 13 years & under 26 years will be in three grading levels:
Preliminary, Novice, Elementary and *Medium (optional if approved judges are available for this level)
- e) Seniors

At a fixture, the horse may compete in ONE grade only e.g. Novice.

Rider must be a financial member of a pony club.

Riders may enter two horses in the same or different grades/heights.

Each horse may gain qualifying results.

Each horse will be placed in its class and is eligible for overall awards.

6A. SENIORS

Seniors are a recognised age group at all but State Championships and therefore must be offered the opportunity to compete.

Seniors do not form part of an official team.

Organisers may run Seniors under Option A or Option B (below) and must be stated on programme which option is being applied to the event.

- **Option A:** Seniors to choose from classes 3,4,5 (Official Preliminary, Novice or Elementary, Medium) to be eligible for overall awards, but if no class is stated will ride in Class 3 Official Preliminary (*Jan 09*).

They compete as though they are part of the group.

They are placed as if they were in the group AND THEN they are recorded separately so they do not take a place from a rider under 26.(e.g. Jan (senior) is placed 3rd in the Official Preliminary, so is awarded 8 points on the senior scoresheet; the next placed U26 rider in the group is then placed 3rd).

If there is equality for overall senior, the rider in the higher level is placed ahead of the other, if in the same level then calculated as for other groups as per rule book.

- **Option B:** Seniors will compete as one Group in Class 6, which will consist of one official preliminary test and one official novice test.
Should Seniors wish to ride outside of the designated Seniors class they may ride HC in any official class. (Aug12)

If there is equality for overall senior, it is calculated as for other groups as per Para.14.

7. GRADING OF HORSES

- a) Riders under 13 years at official dressage days will compete in their respective age group. They may ride any grade of horse as long as it is their normal pony club mount.
- b) Riders 13 years and under 26 years may choose their grading for each official competition.
- c) For State Championships, a horse/rider combination must compete at the highest qualified grade as recorded on their Grading Card.

8. COMBINED GROUPS

If there are less than three (3) competitors in a class, the group may be combined with a lower group.

However, organisers are encouraged to run the group so that riders have the opportunity to qualify and gain experience in their correct grade.

If overall awards are given, the organisers are not required to give an award of the same value to the overall winner of any class with less than three (3) competitors.

9. RESULTS

Results to be forwarded to PCQ within 14 days of the competition.

Where riders have obtained the one score of **55%** in a test required to qualify for State Championships, a Q must be placed by their placing on the result sheet. (Nov 18)

10. PERFORMANCE/GRADING CARDS

All age groups require Performance Cards for Official Competition, including riders under 13 years, showing placings at competitions, for qualifications for State Championships. (Jan 2016)

These must be handed in to organisers at the beginning of the competition, usually when collecting back numbers.

For nominations that do not have horse registration number AND riders who do not have performance card on the day, riders will compete HC. (June 11)

The organisers record the results before returning the card to the competitor.

Results at all Official competitions, including Zone Championships, should be recorded on the Performance Card.

As per 2020 no points will be recorded for placings, it is the riders' percentage that will be used as a qualifier for State Events

Three (3) riders constitute a competition.

Performance cards are issued by PCQ Office following approval and payment of Horse Registration. Horses can be registered on the JustGo database > Profile > Credentials > Add Credential > Horse Registration

10. SCORING ON JUDGES' SHEETS

Each judge may allot from 0 - 10 points, (including half marks) for each numbered movement. If co-efficients are marked on the sheet for certain movements, these must be calculated before the good marks given by the judge are added together.

It is essential that all penalty points are deducted from the individual totals on each sheet before these are added together. The judge's marks are totalled to find the final mark.

Total points for each judge must be clearly shown in results lists and on notice boards. For official days the % must also be shown.

11. UNMARKED MOVEMENT

If a mark has not been recorded on one of the judges' sheets and the judge cannot recall the movement, or cannot be found, the mark allotted should be the average of the collective marks at the end (to the nearest whole number).

12. SCALE OF MARKS

The scale of marks is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 10 Excellent | 5 Marginal |
| 9 Very Good | 4 Insufficient |
| 8 Good | 3 Fairly Bad |
| 7 Fairly Good | 2 Bad |
| 6 Satisfactory | 1 Very Bad |

0 Not Executed (means practically nothing was performed) *Judges are advised not to use '0' as a mark.*

All movements, and certain transitions from one to another which have to be marked by Judges, are numbered on the Judge's sheet.

Judges should state reasons when giving marks of below 5 or above 7. "Not Executed" means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed. The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use.

½ marks are permissible in Dressage competitions including Horse Trials, Combined Training and Freestyles (Jan.15).

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.

Collective marks are awarded after the competitor has finished the test for Paces, Impulsion, Submission, the Rider's Position and aids.

The collective marks, as well as certain difficult movements, can be given a coefficient which is marked on the sheet.

13. JUDGES' SHEETS

Marking sheets, one per horse per judge, are available from PCQ website.

Competitors should be given their judging sheets on the completion of the competition, but not until the scores have been posted and an announcement of the posting made. Test sheets must be returned to the competitors within the 30 minute "protest period".

Judge's marking sheets with remarks duly signed by the judge must be treated as confidential until given to the competitor when they become his/her private property.

The organisers of a competition are not required to make public any figures other than the classification of results, though they are at liberty to do so should they wish.

Judges may, on the completion of their allocated competition, review these papers with the other judge and/or candidate judge, but must not alter any markings on the sheets. Any difference between judges of 8% or more must entail a discussion between judges. The only instances that a test sheet is to be returned to the relevant judge are as follows:

- the test sheet has not been signed;
- an altered mark has not been initialed;
- a mark has been missed;
- the scorers are unable to decipher a mark due to bad writing; or
- where there are two or more judges an error of course has been omitted

14. SCORING FOR INDIVIDUAL & AGE OR GRADE CHAMPION (TEAM Scoring see Scoring Handbook)

1. For individual classes (tests) where equal placings occur with riders on the same percentage for one test, riders are placed equal. The average of the points available for these placings are to be allotted to each horse e.g., = 2nd 9 + 8 = 17, $17 \div 2 = 8.5$ pts.

2. For the Age or Grade Champion points are awarded from 10 to 1 point descending from 1st to 10th place for each test. The Champion is the rider with the most points regardless of the number of tests performed.

3. In the event of a tie for Age or Grade Champion: the actual marks for the number of tests involved will be averaged and the rider with the highest average score will be the Champion.

If still equal, the winner will be the rider with highest score in the highest test.
(August 94)

14.1 Teams Events

A team shall consist of four riders taken from the 4 best scores from each club/zone with the three best scores to count. (Three riders constitute a competition; competitions with less than three riders remain unofficial and do not count towards team placings in an event)

A team of three (constitutes a competition) is acceptable and may beat a team of four riders.

A team with less than 3 riders remaining in the competition cannot be placed at all. Riders under 26 years may make up state/zone/club teams.

Where there are less than three (3) riders in a competition only first overall placegetter is eligible for the State &/or Zone Team. (2020)

15. EXECUTION OF TESTS

1. All movements contained in tests must be executed in the order laid down in the Test. In a movement which must be carried out at a specified point of the arena, it is at the moment when a rider's body is above this point that the movement must be executed. **Judges should keep in mind that if competitors do not execute the movement exactly as mentioned above the movement should still attract a mark above 0.**
2. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A on the shortest route. A competitor who exceeds 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell sounds **will entail a technical fault of 0.5% per Judge**. A competitor who enters the arena at A before the starting signal has been given **may entail a technical fault of 0.5% per Judge**. **Note – new judging sheets will have technical fault box to indicate technical faults for scoring purposes.**
If the judge rings the bell for this entry the rider should restart on the centre line at A without leaving the arena.
3. Any outside intervention by voice, signs, etc. is considered as assistance to a rider or horse. A rider or horse getting assistance must be eliminated.

16. ERRORS OF COURSE

Note – Errors of course are to be deducted from the test sheet of each judge. If the bell is not sounded at an error of course and the test requires the same movement to be repeated and the rider again makes the same error, the rider is only penalised once. The Chief Judge must be aware of the effect of one movement on the next and where mirror images occur, in order to be prompt in notifying the competitor.

Every error of the course, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised except as noted above:

- the first by 2 marks
- the second by 4 additional marks and
- the third by elimination

However, if time permits and the type of event or competition is appropriate, the Chief Judge may invite the rider to continue the test to the end with the marks

being awarded in the ordinary way. In such a case it is not necessary for the collective marks to be completed.

The use of voice etc. is not an error of course but is deducted in the movement when heard. **Note that the use of the voice is permitted in some PE/Exemption Card dressage as an aid.**

It is not always necessary to ring the bell for an error of course. Below are instances that will and will not require the sounding of the bell. However, not all cases can be quoted and it is the Chief Judge who will decide to sound the bell. In deciding not to ring the bell the judge must consider the effect this will have on the rest of the test

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>The Chief Judge will ring the bell when a rider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enters the arena at the incorrect gait• turns right instead of left or vice versa• omits a movement• when a movement is the first of a mirror image and the competitor rides does rising trot instead of sitting trot or vice versa• an incorrect size circle | <p>The Chief Judge will need not ring the bell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa• at the salute, not taking the reins in one hand (<i>now a penalty</i>)• competitor makes an early transition from trot to walk or canter to trot• does rising trot instead of sitting trot or vice versa in a non-mirrored movement |
|---|--|

The competitor is shown by the Chief Judge the point at which they are to re-take the test which could be a movement prior to where the error occurred. Judging will re-commence when the rider reaches the point where the error of course occurred. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the Chief Judge decides on it being an error of course (rings the bell). If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judges must consider only the first movement shown and at the same time penalise for an error of course.

Each judge must have the same number of errors marked on their sheets with a notation explaining where the error was made. The Chief Judge must make the final decision as to the number of errors if there is a discrepancy. If the Judges have not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.

17. Use of Voice

The use of the voice by the rider in any way, or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly, is a serious fault which should be considered by the judges in the mark for the movement. This is a -2 penalty, not an error of course, it is noted at the movement.

Note that the use of the voice is permitted in some PCA/PE Exemption Card dressage as an aid.

18. Entering and competing in Arena

- For competitions where it is not practical or safe to ride around the outside of the arena prior to entering the arena, the rider is allowed to enter the arena as soon as the previous rider has exited and before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded, the rider starts the test from within the arena
- Under special circumstances and conditions, the organising club may also permit riders to ride within an outdoor arena
- For outdoor competitions if the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, then the Chief Judge in consultation with the TD, will make a decision as to whether it is permitted for that competition to allow the competitors to enter the arena and complete one lap each way prior to commencing their test. Such decision **MUST** be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition. Once the bell has been rung the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once on the centre line
- Riding with the reins in both hands is compulsory in all Dressage competitions. The exceptions to this rule are:
 - when saluting
 - leaving the arena after the final salute
 - prescribed in movement
 - during a Freestyle test as part of the degree of difficulty
- After the bell has sounded, the competitor must enter the arena at A as soon as possible
- Judging commences with the entry at A and ceases when the horse moves off at the final salute
- Failure to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded will entail a technical fault of 0.5% per judge
- Entering the arena at A before the starting signal has been given may entail a technical fault of 0.5% per judge
- Judging is not influenced by any actions of the competitor prior to their entrance at A
- **Salute** *Failure to salute will entail a technical fault of 0.5% from each judge* at the salute competitors must take the reins in one hand and acknowledge the centre line judge by dropping hand not holding reins and nodding head. a whip may be held in either hand at the salute but preferably the hand on the reins after the final salute the competitor should leave the arena in walk on a long rein at A. If horse leaves the arena with all four feet at any time between entering the arena at A and the final salute this will incur elimination
- If the entry at A is open for the first horse of a competition, then it must remain open for the rest of the competition
- Riders must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena on penalty of elimination
- If, after entering the arena, a rider dismounts without a reason acceptable to the judge, no marks will be given to the movement. A dropped whip, spectacles etc. may be handed to a rider. However, in the case of a dropped whip it is preferable this is done at the end of the test when the rider has left the arena

- Any fall of the horse and/or rider between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute, will entail elimination from that competition
- After the final halt and salute, if a rider dismounts without a reason acceptable to the judge this will entail elimination

19. ARENAS

All tests are ridden individually within an area of either 60 metres x 20 metres or 40 metres x 20 metres, according to the instructions on the Test Sheets. It is recommended that all tests be carried out in large arenas where possible.

Plans of the arena are below, showing the position of the markers. When the smaller arena is in use, the markers, R, S, V, P, L and I are not required.

It is not necessary to provide a gate steward for competitions. If a steward is not provided, then the gate must remain open throughout the competition to ensure that the same conditions apply for all competitors.

Arenas should be set out to the dimensions shown in the following diagrams.

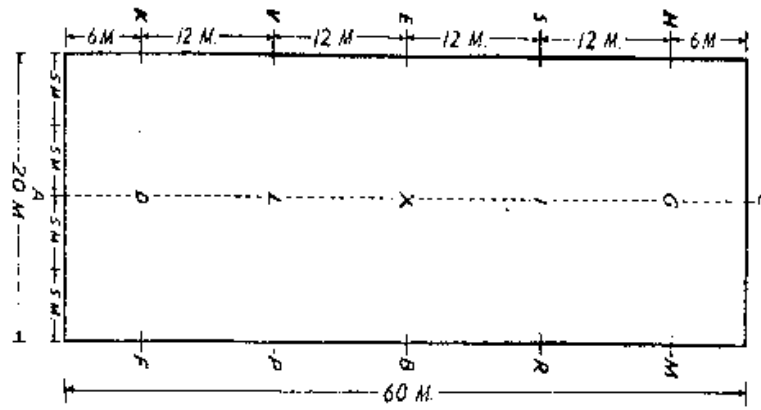
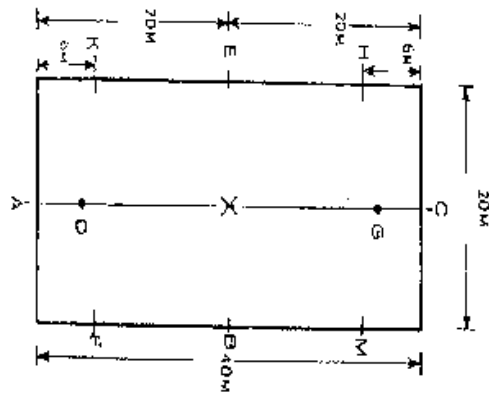
The arena should be as level as possible and separated ideally from the public by **15 metres** but at least **10 metres**. Arenas are to be placed **a minimum** of 5 – 10 metres apart, preferable 10 metres if room permits (*Jan09*).

The arena should consist of a low fence about 0.3 metres high and may be marked in the following ways:

- by a continuous surround of white boards
- by a rope, timber or other suitable enclosure, e.g. breakable plastic chain. Recommended that rope and pegs have a suitable safety cap on top of all pegs
- letters placed around arena should be clearly visible and 0.5 metres outside the arena fence
- the letter A placed in line (not offset) with C at least 10-15 metres back from the arena to allow horses a straight track to enter arena.
- entrance at A should be 2 metres wide

Arenas should be positioned, if possible, where judges are not facing the sun.

DIAGRAM C – ARENAS



20. TEST TIME

With the exception of freestyles, PCQ/EA dressage tests are not timed. Times printed on the sheets are to be used only as a guide.

21. FREESTYLE TESTS

Please see updated EA Rule book for criteria for Freestyles.

How to Judge a Freestyle - Guidelines for Judges

Prior to judging the judge must be very aware of all the compulsory requirements of the level at which they are judging and be confident that the writer knows them also, and how to record the marks.

- A mark should be given each time a compulsory movement is shown. This mark should be placed in the relevant area on the test sheet.
- Half marks (0.5) for the technical and artistic marks may be used at the discretion of the judge.
- As some compulsory movements will be shown more than once, therefore gaining more than one mark, there could be several marks for one required movement.
- At the completion of each test the judge will decide the final mark to be awarded for each movement. The following method is a guide only:
When a horse is awarded a 7 & 5 & 6 for a movement shown more than once:
Total these marks, divide by the number of times it was performed, in this case $7+5+6$ divided by $3 = 6$.
By using this method, a clearer indication of the horse's ability to perform that movement and the mark to be awarded is developed.

22. RIDING IN COMPETITION & WARM-UP ARENAS & TRAINING AREAS

1. No horse, either ridden or led, may enter any arena other than the warm-up arena (where one is available), except when actually competing in a competition, on penalty of elimination. This rule applies also when competition arenas are erected on the days preceding a competition.
2. No trainer or any rider other than the nominated rider is allowed to ride a horse on the day of any Official Competition. Only one rider per horse is permitted at any event. Where Dressage & Combined Training Competitions are held together, the following applies (May 2002):
Competition on the ONE day - horse may have only one rider. Rider may compete on one horse in the dressage and on a different one in the Combined Training. Where competition is on DIFFERENT days - e.g. Dressage on Day 1 and Combined Training on Day 2, then horse may have a different rider.
3. Horses may be lunged in warm up arenas and training areas by the nominated rider, their parent, or club instructor if the rider is too young to control it. **Please refer to lunging section for more details.**
4. Warming up in a double bridle before competing in a test not requiring a double bridle is permissible.

23. HORS CONCOURS (HC)

Riders wishing to compete 'Hors Concours' in any competition must obtain permission from the organiser of the competition concerned. They may not qualify for any prize, but may receive a Q.

HC entries must be nominated on the entry form and cannot be changed after the close of entries. All HC entries must carry correct PCQ registration and comply in every way with the rules governing an official competition.

One HC performance will count as a qualifier; it is necessary to show on performance card if HC competitor gains a qualifier.

24. LAMENESS

In the case of marked lameness, the Chief Judge informs the rider that they are eliminated.

A horse will not be eligible to compete in any further competitions for the rest of that day.

There is no appeal against this decision **The judge** concerned has to have the feeling that the horse in question is **in discomfort**, and that they would not like to see the test continue. They have to feel that to do so **would be detrimental to the horse**. There is often a feeling that something is not quite right, and/or by his movement the horse is protecting himself in some way. However, by watching horse halfway through the test and you are still not sure – it's not markedly lame.

This is certainly not an easy decision for a judge to make, and only if there are real concerns for the welfare of the horse, does a judge act in this way. The prime reason is always the "welfare of the horse" – thus the horse is not permitted to compete again on the day. (Jan09)

25. RESISTANCE

Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for a period exceeding **20** seconds during the course of a test shall be penalised by elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons earlier than 20 seconds. There is no appeal against this decision. (Jan09)

26. GRINDING OF TEETH, TONGUE AND TAIL SWISHING

Putting out the tongue, keeping it above or drawing it up altogether as well as grinding the teeth and swishing the tail are signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movement concerned as well in the collective mark for submission. (Jan09)

27. JUDGES

- The PCQ maintains a list of Judges for Official days.
- Clubs wishing to use judges not on this list must apply to PCQ for approval prior to the event, giving their qualifications and/or judging experience.
- Organisers must ensure that different judging combinations judge each test

for the same group of competitors, i.e. it is sufficient to change one of the judges for the next test.

- At least two judges must be used. Exception: Preliminary and Novice competitions may be judged by a single judge who must be of Elementary standard or higher, if circumstances arise which prevent 2 judges being used.
- No judge should be expected to judge more than 40 horses in a day (*Jan09*)
- No judge should judge more than 35 horses in any one class (*Jan09*)
- No dogs or other distractions should be permitted in the car/shelter with Judges.
- No judge should be expected to judge for more than 2 hours without a 14 minute break.
- If a judge is required to judge more than one class, there needs to be a minimum of 30 minutes between the last horse in one competition and the first horse in the next when they have been judging for more than 2 hours.
- Judges must stay on the grounds for a period of at least 30 minutes after the posting of the placings, so the results should be collated as quickly as possible.

Positioning of Judges on Arena

- C – 3-5 metres back on the centre line
- M &/or H – 3-5 metres back and 2.5 metres in from the long side
- B &/or E - 3-5 metres back
- The chief judge must be placed at C
- Second/third judge maybe positioned at **B, E, M** or H. If a judge is placed at H/M any judge placed at E/B must be placed diagonally opposite the M/H judge.

Persons who may NOT officiate as a Judge

The following may not serve as judges:

- Owners or riders of horses taking part in the competition.
- Close relatives or those mentioned in (a) above, that means parents may not judge their children, even if they ride HC
- Chefs d'Equipe whose competitors are entered in the competition.
- Trainers of competitors entered in the competition.
- Members of the Appeal Committee of the same competition.
- Judges officiating at a competition are not permitted to coach riders (whom they will be judging) during the previous week.

Note: A trainer is defined as a person who regularly (i.e. six hours of lessons or more in the previous three months, not including rally days) trains or coaches a horse, rider, or combination (not necessarily for remuneration).

Protocol for Organisers in the appointment of judges (See also Notes for Organisers)

- Invite judges as early as possible prior to competition
- Confirm all arrangements discussed in writing
- Send judge a copy of draw as soon as it is available so that you are not

embarrassed on the day by finding that the judge has a 'conflict of interest' and cannot judge a relative or pupil

- Advise judges of full details of competition including tests, starting times, lunch arrangement, etc. Judges should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time
- Make sure invited judge has a phone number to ring on the day in the event of their being delayed
- Give judge detailed instructions of where to report and who to ask for at the beginning of the day
- Organisers must ensure that judges are reimbursed for their expenses. **Travel Claim Forms** to be issued to all judges by the organising committee
- Judges must be provided with a pencil

Inspection of Arenas

The judge must physically inspect the arena to ensure that:

- The arena is of a satisfactory standard and if necessary, have it modified
- Once the competition has commenced the conditions must stay (as far as possible) the same for the following horses.
- The marker letters are the correct distance from the outside of the arena, about 0.5 metres.
- The letter A should be placed at least 10 - 15 metres back from the entry on the centre to be in line with C. (Jan09)

28. EXERCISING GROUND

Sufficient level ground and, if possible, a practice arena should be provided. Horses must be correctly saddled and competitors must wear helmets and riding boots when exercising their horses.

29. DECLARATIONS

To ensure smooth running of the schedule, it is obligatory in some events that competitors declare their intention of competing or withdrawing. The details of such requirement must be shown in the schedule.

30. DIVIDING COMPETITIONS

Competitors are not divided by ages in the graded competitions.

For Jumping Equitation, Dressage, Combined Training, & Horse Trials – groups of over 30 riders but less than 40 riders **may be divided** into two groups, but **must be divided** when numbers exceed 40. This will be done by virtue of the draw e.g. first 40 into group 1, next 40 into group 2 etc. There is no option to divide a group with less than 30 riders.

31. GEAR STEWARD

It is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to provide a Steward to check the saddlery, dress, etc. before allowing a competitor to enter the arena (see Rule 23).

It is the ultimate responsibility of the competitor and the Chief Judge to ensure compliance with the rules.

If a rider does not have their gear checked by the appointed Gear Check Steward, they may incur elimination at the discretion of the Chief Steward

32. DRESS

Pony Club Uniform must be worn, Refer PCA National Gear Rules

33. SADDLERY & EQUIPMENT

See PCA National Gear Rules

34. TECHNICAL DELEGATE

Is responsible for the technical judging of all competitions, the final placing of competitors, and settling all problems which may arise during the course of the competition. The TD is responsible for all decisions, except where otherwise stated in the Rules. Available on the day should be a copy of the current Rule Book/scoring handbook for the particular discipline for reference.

35. DISCIPLINE

If any complaint is made that the owner, rider (or their employees) of any horse entered for and competing in a Dressage Competition to which these rules apply has committed a breach of these rules or has been guilty of any conduct which is or may be derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the PCQ, the Chief Steward or, in their absence, the Chief Judge officiating at the Competition during which the cause of the complaint arose or was alleged to have arisen may, if in their absolute discretion they think fit to do so, report the occurrence (in writing) within 14 days. The Secretary will consult the Chairperson of the PCQ as to whether the case is to be dealt with by the Secretary or submitted to the Management Committee or relevant Sub-committee.

36. PROTESTS

Only the owner, their agent or the rider of a horse taking part in a competition (or the Chef d'Equipe/Team Manager) may lodge a protest. Protests must be made to the Secretary of the event, in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$50, not later than half an hour after the happening that gave rise to the protest. In the case of the qualifications of a competitor, the protest must be lodged not later than 30 minutes before the start of the competition. The deposit is forfeited unless the protest is upheld or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for the lodging of a protest.

37. APPEALS COMMITTEE

Members of the Appeals Committee may not take into account any unofficial advice or observations from persons who are not members of the Appeals Committee, or anything they know beforehand of the competitors or their horses.

The Appeals Committee shall comprise the Technical Delegate/Judge-in-Chief (where one is appointed), Chief Steward for the event, and Chief Dressage Judge.

38. LIABILITY

Neither the organising committee of any competition to which these rules apply nor the PCQ accepts any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, ground, spectators or any other person or property whatever.

39. PCQ POWERS

Notwithstanding anything stipulated in the rules and instructions, the PCQ Management Committee shall have full and complete power to omit, amend and interpret these rules and the intentions of any competition in their absolute discretion and to give or to withhold any explanation of their decision.

The PCQ shall in particular be empowered to refuse any entry, with or without stating reasons they shall be the sole judges of the qualifications of any horse or rider to compete in any particular age or grade and may, in their discretion, transfer any entry of any such horse or rider to any lower or higher ranking age or grade.

40. DOPING

Riders. Riders may not take part in any competition while under the influence of any stimulating or calming drugs in any shape or form. The PCQ has adopted the doping policy of the Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Horses. Dressage competitions are conducted under the provisions of the FEI rules regarding prohibited and permitted substances. In essence the rules prohibit the use of any substance other than a normal nutrient which could by its nature affect the performance of the horse as a whole.

The use of local anesthetics and antibiotic substances (antiviral, anti-microbial, anti-parasitic) for the purpose of treating minor conditions, cuts and abrasions is permitted provided permission is obtained from the Veterinarian appointed by the Organising Committee. If, in the opinion of the Veterinarian the quantity of substances administered is likely to affect the performance of the horse unfairly during the remainder of the competition or event, he may recommend to the PCQ Steward that the horse be withdrawn.

In the event that no Veterinarian has been appointed by the Committee, the decision rests with the PCQ Steward of the competition.

41. FEI ARTICLE 146 – CRUELTY

1. Cruelty can be defined as intentionally causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. As examples, an act cruelty can be any of the following:

- a. To whip or beat a horse excessively.
- b. To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device.
- c. To use spurs, or to jab the horse in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently.
- d. To remount, or attempt to remount, an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse.
- e. To 'rap' a horse anywhere in or outside the grounds or the event.
- f. To hyper-sensitize any part of a horse.

- g. To leave a horse without adequate food, drink and exercise.
2. Any such incident and any other case of cruelty must be reported immediately to the PCQ Steward.
 3. Officials, or any other persons, reporting a case of cruelty should, if possible, secure one or more witnesses to the incident, or any other form of evidence, and either bring them to the Committee to which the report is addressed, or obtain written statements from the, duly signed, together with their names and addresses.
 4. Cases of cruelty reported after the end of an event should be addressed to the PCQ Secretary.
 5. Reports dispatched more than 10 days after the end of an event will not be considered.

42. QUALIFYING FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Horse and rider combinations must qualify to attend State Championships.

Qualifying events are Official or Zone Championships or previous State Championship. To count as a Qualifying Event, **Zone Championships** must be run in the same format as a State Event and have been applied for and approved by the relevant PCQ Sub-Committee.

A comprehensive update on Qualifying Criteria for State Events can be found on the Rule Books page of the PCQ website

DUTIES OF DRESSAGE PENCILLERS

- Score sheets must be marked in INK, not pencil.
- The penciller writes the remarks the judge gives for each movement in the appropriate space, using abbreviations where possible.
- The comment is given first, then the mark which is written in the left hand column marked "Pts".
- Do NOT add up points or multiply co-efficients, as the scorers do this.
- Make sure you have the correct marks in the correct space. If you get left behind, tell the judge. THEY can come back to fill in the gaps at the end of the test.
- If the competitor makes an error, mark the movement with an asterisk (*) and write ERROR next to it. At the bottom of the sheet, put a cross in the 1st error square (or 2nd, etc). This must be written clearly so the scorers can deduct appropriate points.
- Make sure the judge signs each sheet and initials any changes you make to the points scored. Do not overwrite one number with another. Cross out the first, write the second and get the judge to initial the change.

Dressage Shorthand

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|---|
| — | STRAIGHT (eg CL) = straight centre line | | RESISTANCE RESISTANCE to any aid eg: bit |
| w | WOBBLY | 4wd F'wd → | FORWARD |
| ○ | CIRCLE | Bal | BALANCED |
| ∅ | CIRCLE NOT ROUND | R | RIDER |
| ½ ○ | HALF CIRCLE | H | HORSE |
| FH 4H | FOREHAND | CL | CENTRE LINE |
| HQ ¼ S | HINDQUARTERS | SL | SIDELINE |
| HQL | HINDQUARTERS LEFT | └s | CORNER(S) |
| HQR | HINDQUARTERS RIGHT | Imp | IMPULSION |
| ↑bit | ABOVE BIT | Insuf | INSUFFICIENT |
| □ | SQUARE | CC | COUNTER CANTER |
| ◻ | NOT SQUARE | Pir | PIROUETTE |
| Trans | TRANSITIONS | ½ Pir | ½ PIROUETTE |
| ↑ Trans | UPWARDS TRANSITION | S/I | SHOULDER IN |
| ↓ Trans | DOWNWARD TRANSITION | RB | REIN BACK |
| Eng HQs | ENGAGEMENT OF HINDQTRS | FW | FREE WALK |
| Rhy | RHYTHM | MW | MEDIUM WALK |

RULES FOR COMBINED TRAINING COMPETITION 2024

1. COMPOSITION

Combined Training is a two-phase competition: Dressage and Showjumping. The Dressage and Jumping Tests, which make up a Combined Training Competition must be taken in that order.

2. CLASSIFICATION

The same horse and rider must complete both phases (Dressage test & Showjump) and elimination from one phase involves elimination from the whole competition.

Competitor A may ride in A1 at one event and at another event competitor B may ride the same horse in A3. Each combination may gain qualifying results.

3. JUDGES

There must be at least one Dressage judge drawn from the PCQ Official Judges list (except in the case of Championship) and one Jumping Judge and/or Course Builder from the PCQ Official list.

Combined Training Heights:

- 13 to 26 year age group – Jump heights at 60cm, 80cm and 95cm; 105cm is optional (Jan 2020)
- 12 & Under at 60cm
- 10 & Under at 50cm

4. CLASSES

Classes may be conducted at the following levels:

For Riders 13 years & under 26 years:

| Dressage Level | Test | Showjumping Level | Height |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| A | Preliminary | 1 | 60cm |
| B | Novice | 2 | 80cm |
| | | 3 | 95cm |
| | | 4 (optional) | 105cm |
| | | 1 | 60cm |
| C | Elementary | 2 | 80cm |
| | | 3 | 95cm |
| | | 4 (optional) | 105cm |
| | | 1 | 60cm |
| | | 2 | 80cm |
| | | 3 | 95cm |
| | | 4 (optional) | 105cm |

For Riders under 13 years:

| | | |
|---------|-------------|------|
| 12 & u. | Preliminary | 60cm |
| 10 & u. | Preliminary | 50cm |

Seniors:

Seniors are a recognised age group except at State level.

In Combined Training, all do the same Dressage Test but choose jumping height, *if not stated Seniors jump 60cm.*

To be eligible for Overall Senior Award riders must choose from jumping heights 60cm, 80cm, 95cm or 105cm.

If there is equality for overall senior, the rider in the highest level Showjumping is placed ahead of the other.

5. HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CLASS - 1st Jan. 2020:

Horse may be entered in any CT class, but the horse may only compete in one class for the competition.

When Dressage & Combined Training competitions are run on the same day, a horse may compete in an Unofficial program of one and the Official of the other; but may not compete across two graded Dressage levels; ie a horse/rider combination may compete Unofficial Dressage and Official A1 CT; NOT Novice Dressage and A1 CT.

Riders choose their own Showjumping height. Individual Showjumping/Eventing levels have no bearing on Combined Training.

6. PERFORMANCE CARDS

Performance cards are required for all levels including riders under 13 years showing placings at competition for Qualifications for State Championships.

7. GRADING POINTS

There are no grading points for PCQ Combined Training (*Jan. 2016*)

8. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A horse/rider combination will compete in the same Dressage grading for both Dressage and Combined Training at a State Championship even when these competitions are held on different days.

8a QUALIFYING FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

To gain a Q at any competition, horse & rider must have obtained a Dressage score of **50%** or more AND NO MORE THAN 4 Showjumping penalties (Nov 2019) in the Showjumping phase. Riders must obtain two 2Qs to qualify.

A Q obtained at any competition will be recorded next to the rider's name on their Performance Card and in the results forwarded to PCQ.

9. COMBINED GROUPS

Three (3) competitive riders make a group, and therefore are not combined. If one or two riders have been nominated for a class, or if after close of nominations the number decreases, the organisers have the right to combine the group/s. Competitions with less than three (3) riders remain unofficial and do not count towards team placings. This should not arise as groups should be combined as follows:

The competitors will be combined according to their Dressage Level but jump their own heights and same course

Placings: Combined Groups are treated as ONE group for the purpose of calculating the result of the class, ignoring the different heights jumped.

SECTION 1 - DRESSAGE PHASE OF COMBINED TRAINING

10. RULES

Clubs have an option to use one of the Tests from the Official Dressage Competition as the dressage test for the Combined Training, if the two competitions are being conducted on the same day and at the same venue.

If is used then this must be stated on the program (*19th Nov 2020*)

The Dressage Test is judged under PCQ Rules, except where modified below.

Commanded Tests are not allowed (i.e. no callers allowed). Callers are allowed for unofficial classes but this must be stated on the event program.

Half or whole marks may be awarded for individual movements and collective marks.

Whips are allowed in pony club Combined Training (*Jan.2015*).

11. DRESSAGE TESTS (From EA website)

Tests as for the relevant level shown above.

The judges' marking sheets may be given to athletes at the end of the dressage test.

PENALTIES IN DRESSAGE TEST

First error of course - 2 penalties Second error of course - 4 penalties

Third error of course - Elimination

12. SCORING

January 2020: Scoring is based on Eventing Scoring System.

Calculation of Scores:

- Good Marks:

On each Judge's sheet the good marks awarded for each movement together with the collective marks are added deducting any penalties for errors of course or test.

- Judges Percentages:

For each judge the percentage of maximum possible good marks obtainable is then calculated. Percentage for each judge is obtained by dividing total good marks (minus any error of course or test) by the maximum possible good marks obtainable, and then multiplying by 100 and rounding the result to two decimal digits (any score of "x.xx5" and above is rounded up and any score less than "x.xx5" is rounded down.

This value is shown as the individual percentage for that Judge.

- Athlete's Percentage: Athlete's percentage is calculated on the average good marks obtained by adding the total good marks for each Judge (percentage as calculated above) and dividing by the number of judges. The percentage will always be rounded to two decimal digits.

- Penalty Points: In order to convert Athlete's percentage into penalty points, this must be subtracted from 100 with the resulting figure being rounded to ONE decimal digit. The result is the score in penalty points for the dressage test.

- Any penalties incurred in the jumping phase are added to the penalty points for the dressage test.

- If the final score gives equality of marks to two or more competitors, the

classification is decided by the best (lowest) Dressage score. If there is still equality, the CLOSEST to optimum time (under the time set) in the jumping test determines the result.

SECTION 2 - JUMPING PHASE OF COMBINED TRAINING

13. RULES

The Jumping Tests consists of One Round of the course judged under PCQ rules except where modified below: **There is no jump off.**

14. COURSE

The course should be approximately 500 metres long and is similar to an ordinary Jumping competition, but without any attempt to find a winner of this test on its own.

The main objective is to prove that the horse and rider are well trained in the specialist discipline of jumping. The track should be suitable to the level of the competition.

15. OBSTACLES

The obstacles will be standard Jumping obstacles. The obstacles should have a balance of vertical and spread obstacles with approximately 8 to 12 numbered obstacles, including one double for all heights.

A tolerance of five (5) centimetres in height is acceptable, if dictated by the terrain or by the spacing of the cups.

16. SPEED

The test must be carried out at the following speed:

350 metres per minute for 95cm and 105cm.

325 metres per minute for 80cm & 60cm

300 metres per minute for 12 years & under 60cm

300 metres per minute for 10 years & under 50cm

N.B. the time taken by each competitor must be recorded even if it is within the Time Allowed, as this may be the deciding factor in the event of a tie.

17. PENALTIES

Faults at Obstacles:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Knocking down an obstacle | 4 penalties |
| First run-out, refusal or unauthorised circle in the whole test | 4 penalties |
| Second run-out, refusal or unauthorised circle in the whole test | 8 penalties |
| Third run-out, refusal or unauthorised circle in the whole test | Elimination |
| First fall or Rider or Horse | Elimination |
| Exceeding the Time Allowed – 0.4 penalty for commenced second | |
| Exceeding the Time Limit | Elimination |

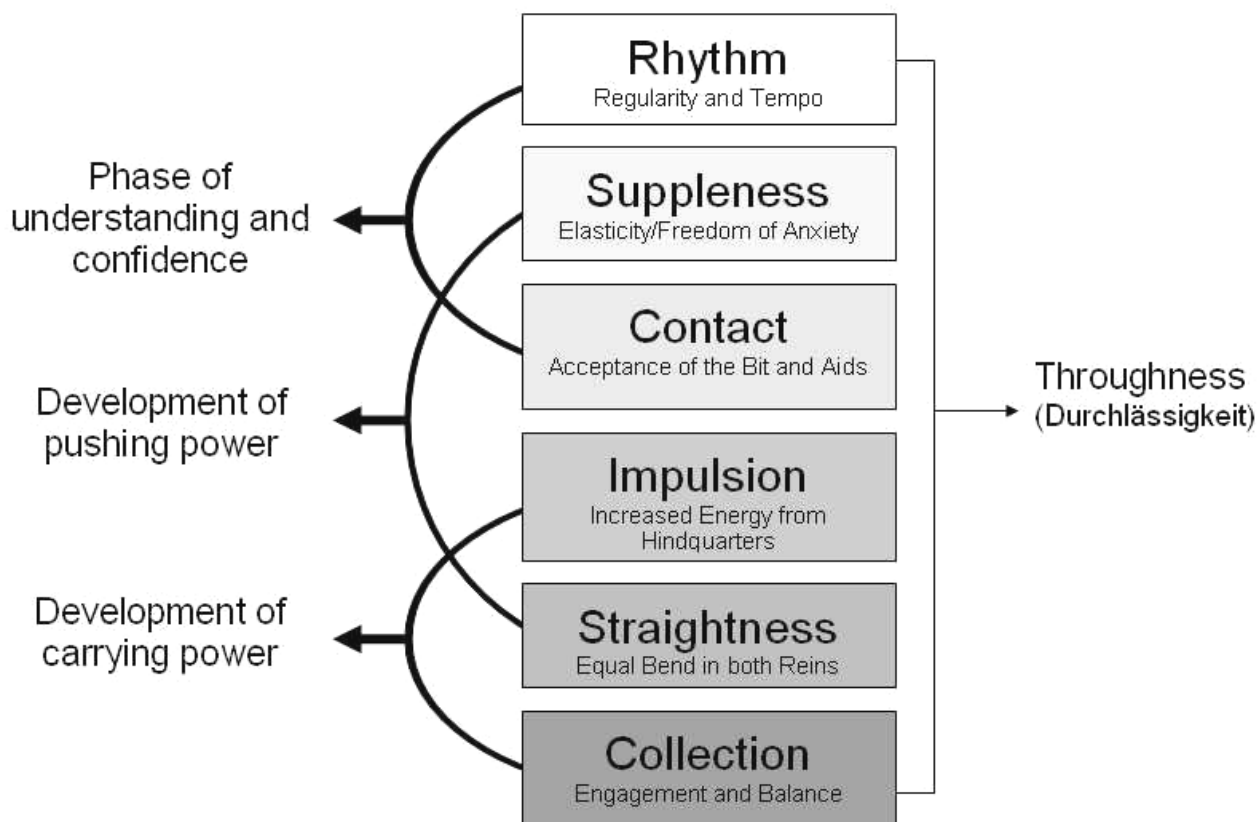
18. SADDLERY & DRESS

See PCA National Gear Rules

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS & JUDGES

The Training Scale

There are 6 building blocks of the training scale. They must be taken in conjunction with each other.



1 Rhythm

Refers to the regularity which is the correct sequence and timing of the footfalls

2 Suppleness

Suppleness and relaxation. The complete absence of tension, and is an essential aim of the preliminary training phase. Relaxation in both the mental and physical sense

3 Contact

Is a soft, steady, connection between the athlete's hands and horse's mouth. The horse should go rhythmically forward from the athlete's driving aids and 'seek' a contact with the athlete's hands

4 Impulsion

The term used to describe the transmission of energy from the hindquarters being transmitted into the athletic movement of the horse

5 Straightness

A horse is said to be straight when its forehead is in line with its hindquarters, that is, when its longitudinal axis is in line with the straight or curved track it is following

6 Collection

To enable a horse to be collected correctly, all the former criteria must be fulfilled.

- the aim is to improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse
- to develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage the quarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of the forehand. If the carrying capacity of the hindquarters is sufficiently developed, the horse is then in a position to move in balance and self-carriage in all three paces

Becoming a Judge

CIP are responsible for all matters relating to the day-to-day running of the sport, and training and accrediting of judges in accordance with PCQ Dressage Rules. These matters may be delegated by the CIP to the State Dressage Committee but responsibility for these matters ultimately rests with the CIP. These rules cover the ongoing education of members wishing to become accredited dressage judges; the training and examination required to attain accreditation; and the procedures required to remain accredited.

These rules refer to various rules and sections in the Dressage Rules. All Judges should own a current copy of the Dressage Rules. Any variation or dispensation from the following rules must be referred to the Dressage Sub-Committee for consideration.

Code of Conduct for Accredited Dressage Judges

Accredited Dressage Judges must adhere to the „PCQ Code of Conduct for Officials“ and PCQ General Code of Conduct“ and the PCQ Member Protection Policy. PCQ Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse applies to all PCQ activities. Codes of Conduct and PCQ Sport Rules and By-laws are available at www.ponyclubqld.com.au

For complaints in relation to violation of any PCQ Code of Conduct, refer to the PCQ Member Protection Policy

Dressage Judges Protocol

- have an open and friendly attitude towards all competitors while being careful not to show familiarity towards those competing
- be aware that judges are responsible for setting and maintaining the image and standards of dressage both in the competition arena and away from it and that, as an ambassador for dressage, they should conduct themselves with dignity, honesty and good manners, especially in difficult situations
- treat requests from competitors to explain their decisions as an opportunity to assist the competitor to improve their performance
- honor a commitment to judge and if unforeseen circumstances prevent this, endeavor to help the organisers to find a replacement
- maintain an objective and fair mind towards all competitors which includes:
 - not taking into account knowledge of riders, horses or past performances
 - guarding against conflicts of interest and avoiding judging in situations where they have a close personal/professional relationship with a competitor or owner
- ensure to the best of their ability the same conditions apply to all competitors
- know and understand the scale of marks and ensure that their comments and marks are related

- maintain the same standard for all competitors in a competition and all events
- possession of a current Dressage Rule Book together with any amendments
- know the rules and be prepared to coordinate their personal opinion with the principles of the FEI and EA
- have thorough knowledge of correct training of the dressage horse as per the training scale and understand the requirements of the test they are to judge

Judge Accreditation

Accredited judges may act as a member of a Ground Jury at events or competitions of PCQ.

Every second year all Dressage Judges are required to re-accredit with PCQ a designated by the Dressage Sub-Committee. Once a judge has re-accredited they will appear on the Dressage Judges list. Only those elementary judges noted on dressage list can judge Medium level tests.

Minimum age 17 Years

Judge Clinics: (Feb 2012) Any applications for Dressage Judges Clinics must come through the Dressage Sub-committee.

Candidates must:

1. complete an open book rules test before attending the clinic.
2. supply evidence of pencilling at a competition.

Presenters for courses must be approved through the Dressage Sub-committee.

Accreditation Process is based on:

PCQ Dressage Judge Syllabus assessment activities, which include:

- shadow judging
- Open Rule Book Test
- written theory paper
- practical judging exam
- sport-specific and generic officiating information
- mentoring is recommended as an educational activity

Upgrading Judges

All members seeking to upgrade should apply to do so in writing through their respective clubs.

FEI DEFINITIONS OF PACES AND MOVEMENTS

(Extracted from FEI Rules for Dressage Events - 17th Edition)

Article 401 - Object and general principles

1. The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with his rider.

2. These qualities are revealed by:

2.1 The freedom and regularity of the paces

2.2 The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements

2.3 The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hind quarters, originating in a lively impulsion

2.4 The acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

3. The horse thus gives the impression of doing of his own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive he submits generously to the control of his rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

4. His walk is regular, free and unconstrained. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. His canter is united, light and cadenced. His quarters are never inactive or sluggish. They respond to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby give life and spirit to all the rest of his body.

5. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of his joints, free from the paralysing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

6. In all his work, even at the halt, the horse must be "on the bit". A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

7. The horse shows cadence when its movements are well marked, rhythmic and harmonious.

Article 402 - The halt

1. At the halt, the horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight, with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs, being by pairs abreast with each other. The neck should be raised, the poll high and the head slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining "on the bit" and maintaining a light and soft contact with the rider's

hand, the horse may quietly champ the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the rider.

2. The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight on the quarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse towards a more and more restraining but allowing hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place.

3. The halt must be shown for at least 3 seconds and the halt shown throughout the salute. The quality of the paces before and after the halt are an integral part of the assessment.

Article 403 - The walk

1. The walk is a marching pace in which the footfalls of the horse's feet follow one another in "four time", well marked and maintained in all work at the walk.

2. When the four beats cease to be distinctly marked, even and regular, the walk is disunited or broken.

3. It is at the pace of walk that the imperfections of dressage are most evident. This is also the reason why a horse should not be asked to walk "on the bit" at the early stages of his training.

4. The following walks are recognised: Collected walk, Medium walk, Extended walk and Free walk.

4.1 Collected walk. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with his neck raised and arched. The head approaches the vertical position, the light contact with the mouth being maintained. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. Each step covers less ground and is higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The hind feet touch the ground behind or at the most in the footprints of the fore feet. In order not to become hurried or irregular, the collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

4.2 Medium walk. A clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension. The horse, remaining "on the bit", walks energetically but calmly, with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the fore feet. The rider maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth.

4.3 Extended walk. The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the fore feet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out his head and neck without, however, losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll.

4.4 Free Walk on a Long Rein The free walk on a long rein is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck while the rider maintains the light contact through the rein.

4.5 Stretching on a Long Rein

- In order to execute the exercise 'stretching on a long rein' correctly:
- the rider allows the horse to take the reins gradually and smoothly as the horse stretches his neck forward and downward.
- the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- a light, elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained
- the horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the foot prints of the forefeet
- during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the jaw, mouth or poll.

Article 404 - The trot

1. The trot is a pace of "two time" on alternate diagonal legs (near left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.
2. The trot, always with free, active and regular steps, should be moved into without hesitation.
3. The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps - originated from a supple back and well engaged hind quarters - and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition from one trot to another.
4. The following trots are recognised: Collected trot, Working trot, Lengthen trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.
 - 4.1 Collected trot. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with his Neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, thus enabling the shoulders to move with greater ease in any direction. The horse's steps are shorter than in other trots, but he is lighter and more mobile.
 - 4.2 Working trot. This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements, shows himself properly balanced and, remaining "on the bit", goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hind quarters.
 - 4.3 Medium trot. This is a pace between the working and the extended trot, but more "round" than the latter. The horse goes forward with free and moderately extended steps and an obvious impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining "on the bit", to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The steps should be as even and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.
 - 4.4 Extended trot. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same cadence, he lengthens his steps to the utmost as a result of great

impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining "on the bit", without leaning on it, to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hind quarters.

4.5 Lengthening of Steps In the tests for Preliminary and Novice 'lengthening of steps' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot.

4.6 Stretching on a Long Rein

- this exercise gives a clear impression of the 'throughness' of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation in order to execute the exercise 'stretching on a long rein' correctly, the athlete must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward
- as the neck stretches forward and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- an elastic and consistent contact with the athlete's hands must be maintained
- the pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hind legs well engaged
- during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll

5. All trot-work is executed "sitting", unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.

Article 405 The canter

1. The canter is a pace of "three time", where at canter to the right, for instance, the footfalls follow one another as follows:

left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.

2. The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation.

3. The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, the regularity and lightness of the three-time pace - originated in the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hind quarters with an active hock action - and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines.

4. The following canters are recognised:

Collected canter, Working canter, Lengthen canter, Medium canter and Extended canter.

4.1 Collected canter. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The collected canter is marked by the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hind quarters: i.e., is characterised

by supple, free and mobile shoulders and very active quarters. The horse's strides are short than at the other canter, but he is lighter and more mobile.

- 4.2 Working canter. This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements, shows himself properly balanced and remaining "on the bit", goes forward with even, light and cadenced strides and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" does not mean that collection is a required quality of working canter. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hind quarters.
- 4.3 Medium canter. This is a pace between the working and the extended canter. The horse goes forward with free, balanced and moderately extended strides and on obvious impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining "on the bit", to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and working canter, and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The strides should be long and as even as possible, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.
- 4.4 Extended canter. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same rhythm, he lengthens his strides to the utmost, without losing any of his calmness and lightness, as a result of great impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining "on the bit", without leaning on it, to lower and extend his head and neck the tip of his nose pointing more or less forward.
- 4.5 **Lengthening of Strides** In the Novice tests 'lengthening of strides' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.
- 4.6 The cadence in the transitions from medium canter as well as from extended canter to collected canter should be maintained.

5. Counter-Canter ("False canter")

This is a movement where the rider, for instance on a circle to the left, deliberately makes his horse canter with the right canter lead (with the fore leading). The counter-canter is a suppling movement. The horse maintains his natural flexion at the poll to the outside of the circle, in other words is bent to the side of the leading leg. His conformation does not permit his spine to be bent to the line of the circle. The rider, avoiding any contortion causing contraction and disorder, should especially endeavour to limit the deviation of the quarters to the outside of the circle, and restricts his demands according to the degree of suppleness of the horse.

6. Simple change of leg at canter This is a change of leg where the horse is brought back immediately into walk and, after three or at the most five steps, is restarted immediately into a canter with the other leg leading.

7. Flying change of leg or change of leg in the air

This change of leg is executed in close connection with the suspension which follows each stride of the canter. Flying changes of leg can also be executed in

series, for instance at every 4th, 3rd, 2nd and every stride. The horse, even in the series, remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness and fluency of the flying changes of leg in series, the degree of collection should be slightly less than otherwise at collected canter.

Article 406 - The rein back

1. The rein back is a rearward diagonal movement in which the feet are raised and set down almost simultaneously by diagonal pairs each fore foot being raised and set down an instant before the diagonal hind foot, so that, on hard ground, sometimes four separate beats are clearly audible. The feet should be well raised and the hind feet remain well in line.
2. At the preceding halt as well as during the rein back the horse, although standing motionless and moving backwards respectively, should remain "on the bit", maintaining his desire to move forward.
3. Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the hand, deviation of the quarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging fore feet are serious faults.
4. If in a dressage test a trot or canter is required after a rein back, the horse should move off immediately into this pace, without a halt or an intermediate step.

Article 407 – The transitions

1. The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be clearly shown at the prescribed marker. Transitions within the pace must be clearly defined whilst maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from the trot to canter. The cadence of a pace should be maintained up to the moment when the pace is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position.

Article 408 - The half-halt

The half-halt is a hardly visible, almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hand of the rider, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of several movements or transitions to lesser and higher paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's quarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are facilitated, for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

Article 409 - The changes of direction

1. At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line he follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the rider, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.
2. When changing direction at right angles, for instance when riding corners, the horse should describe one quarter of a circle of approximately 6 metres diameter at collected and working paces, and at medium and extended paces one quarter of a circle of approximately 10 metres diameter.

3. When changing direction in form of counter-change of hand, the rider changes direction by moving obliquely either to the quarter line or the centre line or to the opposite long side of the arena, whence he returns on an oblique line to the line he was following when he started the movement.
4. At the counter-change of hand the rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction.
5. When, for instance, at counter-change of hand at half-pass to either side of the centre line, the number of meters or strides to either side is prescribed in the test, it must be strictly observed and the movement be executed symmetrically.

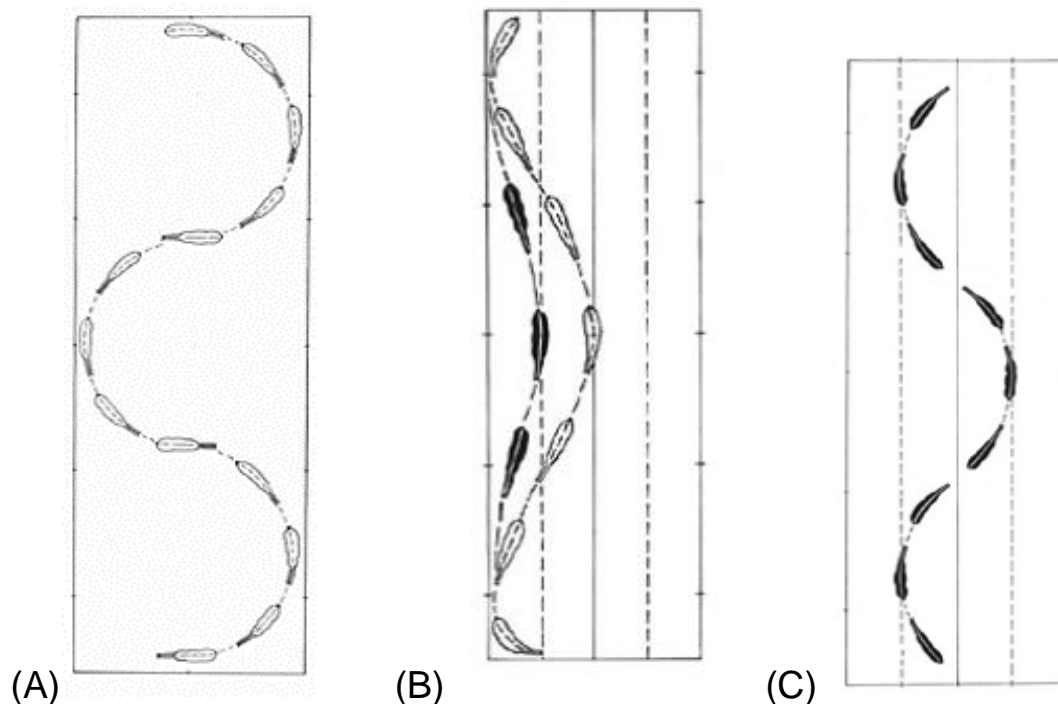
Article 410 - The figures

1. Volte

The Volte is a circle of 6, 8 or 10 metres diameter. If larger than 10 meters, one uses the term Circle stating the diameter.

2. Serpentine

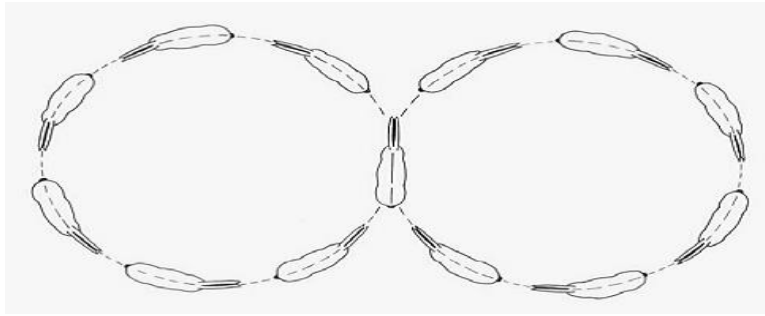
The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half-circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centre line the horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half-circles the straight connection varies in length. Serpentine with one loop on the long side of the arena are executed with a 5m or 10m distance from the track (b). Serpentine around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c)



Starting and finishing by riding into the corners is incorrect.

3. Figure eight

This figure consists of two exact voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



Article 411 - The lateral movements (Work on two tracks)

1. The aim of the lateral movement is:
 - 1.1 To improve the obedience of the horse to the co-operative aids of the rider
 - 1.2 To supple all parts of the horse, thereby increasing the freedom of his shoulders and the suppleness of his quarters, as well as the elasticity of the bond connecting the mouth, the poll, the neck, the back & haunches
 - 1.3 To improve the cadence and bring the balance and pace into harmony
 - 1.4 At the lateral movements the pace should remain free and regular, maintained by a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost, because of the rider's preoccupation mainly in bending the horse and pushing him sideways.
 - 1.5 The lateral movements comprise: Leg-yielding, Shoulder-in, Travers (Head to the wall), Renvers (Tail to the wall) and half-pass.

7.1 Leg-yielding

The aim of leg-yielding is to demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse.

- the exercise is performed in working trot
- the horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside
- the inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs
- leg yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced shoulder-in movement, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of its paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of its movements.
- leg-yielding can be performed 'on the diagonal', in which case the horse should be as nearly as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. It can also be performed 'along the wall', in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which he is moving. (Fig 5)

7.2 Shoulder-in. The exercise is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider maintaining

engagement and cadence at a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees. The horses inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside fore leg, with the lowering of the inside hip. The horse is bent away from the direction from which it is moving. (See Fig.1).

7.3 Travers. This exercise can be performed in trot or canter. The horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the athlete but with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. A constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown (from the front and from behind one sees four tracks). The forehand remains on the track & the quarters are moved inwards. The horses outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which he is moving. (Fig 2)

7.4 Renvers. This is the inverse movement in relation to Travers. The hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward. To finish the renvers the forehand is aligned with the quarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to Travers are applicable as at renvers. (Fig 3).

7.5 Half-pass. The aim of half-pass in trot is to show a fluent collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.

The aim of half-pass in canter is to both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness of the canter by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and submission to the bend.

This is a variation of Travers, executed "on the diagonal" instead of "along the wall". The horse slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider, should be as close as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the quarters. The outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is looking in the direction in which he is moving. He should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement.

In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, which adds to the ease and grace of the movement, it is of great importance, not only that the horse is correctly bent and thereby prevented from protruding his inside shoulder, but also to maintain the impulsion, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg (see Fig.4).

Article 412 - The pirouette and the half-pirouette/turn on the haunches

1. The pirouette (half-pirouette) is a circle (half-circle) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehand moving round the haunches.

2. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) are usually carried out at collected walk or canter, but can also be executed at piaffe.

3. At the pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot move round the inside hind foot, which forms the pivot and should return to the same spot, or slightly in front of it, each time it leaves the ground.
4. At whatever pace the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed, the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which he is turning, should, remaining "on the bit" with a light contact, turn smoothly round, maintaining the exact cadence and sequence of foot-falls of that pace. The poll stays the highest point during the entire movement.
5. During the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) the horse should maintain his impulsion, and never in the slightest way move backwards or deviate sideways. If the inside hind foot is not raised and returned to the ground in the same rhythm as the outside hind foot, the pace is no longer regular. In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain perfect lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The quarters are well engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints.
6. The quality of the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness, cadence and regularity, and to the precision and smoothness of the transitions. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) at canter also according to the balance, the elevation and the number of strides (at pirouettes 6-8, at half-pirouettes 3-4 are desirable).

Turn on the Haunches from Walk (180 degrees)

For younger horses that are still not able to show collected walk the 'turn on the haunches' is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The 'turn on the haunches' is executed out of medium walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The horse does not halt before or after the turn. The 'turn on the haunches' can be executed on a larger radius (approx. 0.5m) than the pirouette in walk, but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same.

Article 413 - The passage

1. This is a measured, very collected, very elevated and very cadenced trot. It is characterised by a pronounced engagement of the quarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.
2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg.
3. The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the head close to the vertical. The horse should remain light and soft "on the bit" and be able to go smoothly from the passage to the piaffe and vice-versa, without apparent effort and without altering the cadence, the impulsion being always lively and pronounced.
4. Irregular steps with the hind legs, swinging the forehand or the quarters from one side to the other as well as jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs or dragging the hind legs are serious faults.

Article 414 - The piaffe

1. The piaffe is a highly collected, cadenced, elevated and majestic trot on the spot. The horse's back is supple and vibrating. The quarters are slightly lowered, the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with an even cadence and a slightly prolonged suspension.
2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other fore leg. The toe of the raised hind leg should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg.
3. The neck should be raised and arched, the head vertical. The horse should remain light "on the bit" with a supple poll, maintaining a light and soft contact on a taut rein. The body of the horse should move up and down in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement.
4. The piaffe, although being executed strictly on the spot and with perfect balance, must always be animated by a lively impulsion, which is displayed in the horse's constant desire to move forward as soon as the aids calling for the piaffe cease.
5. Moving even slightly backwards, irregular steps with the hind legs, crossing the forelegs or swinging either the forehand or the quarters from one side to the other are serious faults. A movement with hurried and unlevel or irregular steps without cadence, or steps without suspension cannot be called a true piaffe.

Article 415 - The collection

1. The aim of the collection of the horse is:
 - 1.1 To further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the rider.
 - 1.2 To develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage his quarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of his forehand.
 - 1.3 To add to the "ease and carriage" of the horse and to make him more pleasurable to ride.
2. The best means to obtain these aims are the lateral movements, travers, renvers and last but not least, shoulder-in (Article 411.7.2) as well as half-halts (Article 408).
3. Collection is, in other words, improved and effected by engaging the hind legs, with the joints bent and supple, forward under the horse's body by a temporary but often repeated action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse forward towards a more or less stationary or restraining hand, allowing just enough impulsion to pass through. Collection is consequently not achieved by shortening of the pace through a resisting action of the hand, but instead by using the seat and legs to engage the hind legs further under the horse's body.
4. However, the hind legs should not be engaged too far forward under the horse, as this would shorten the base of support too much, and thereby impede the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and

raised in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be deranged and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance.

5. On the other hand, a horse with a too long base of support, unable or unwilling to engage his hind legs forward under his body, will never achieve an acceptable collection, characterised by "ease and carriage" as well as lively impulsion, originated in the activity of the quarters.

6. The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, in some degree, on his conformation. It should, however, be distinguished by the neck being raised unrestrained, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, being the highest point, with the head slightly in front of the vertical. However, at the moment the rider applies his aids in order to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical (compare Articles 401.6, 402.2 and 408).

Article 416 - The submission

1. Submission does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behaviour of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease he is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of submission is also manifested by the way the horse accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and a supple poll, or with resistance to or evasion of the rider's hand being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" respectively.

2. Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth and swishing the tail are mostly signs of nervousness, tenseness or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movement concerned as well as in the collective mark of "submission" (No.3).

Article 417 - The position and aids of the rider

1. All the movements should be obtained with invisible aids and without apparent effort of the rider. He should be well balanced, with his loins and hips supple, thighs and legs steady and well stretched downwards. The upper part of the body easy, free and erect, with the hands low and close together without, however, touching either each other or the horse and with the thumb as the highest point the elbows and arms close to the body, enabling the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply his aids imperceptibly. This is the only position making it possible for the rider to school his horse progressively and correctly.

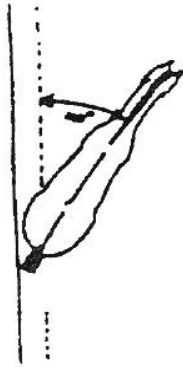
2. Not only the aids of the hand and the legs but also of the seat are of great importance in dressage. Only the rider who understands how to contract and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly (compare Articles 402.2, 408 and 415.3).

3. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all International Dressage Events, not only when executing any of the Official Dressage Tests published by the FEI

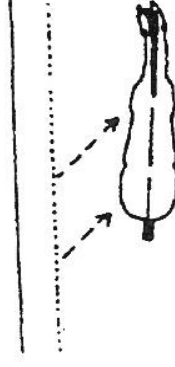
but also when executing any national test that might be inserted in the programme of the same event. However, when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished his performance, the rider may, at his own discretion, ride with only one hand. Riding with reins in one hand is however permitted in the Free Style Tests.

DIAGRAMS E

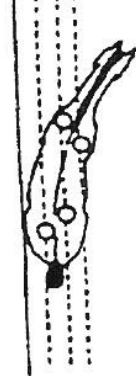
5. Leg yielding along the wall



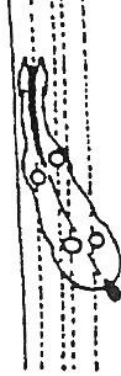
6) Leg yielding on the diagonal



1. Shoulder in



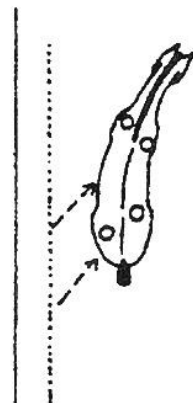
2. Travers



3. Renvers



4. Half-Pass



NOTES ON THE INTERPRETATION OF DRESSAGE TEST SHEETS

(These notes are not rules)

1. A rider in movement along the outer track will continue along it on the same rein, without alteration of pace or manner of riding (e.g., sitting or rising) until instructed to do otherwise. If required to leave this track and return to it (e.g., when circling) the rider will continue along the track in the same manner of going as he left it and on the same rein unless instructed to do otherwise.
2. In Novice tests, sitting is optional unless where stated specifically. In elementary tests and above, all trot work is executed sitting unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.
3. Change of Pace at a given marker. The horse should make the first step in the new pace as the rider passes the marker. (It follows that when the transitions are progressive, they must begin before reaching the marker). This note might seem at variance with the way a simple change of leg at the canter is normally performed. However, the movement fully stated is 'simple change of leg through a walk' and this involves at least two changes of pace of which the first is from canter to walk. If the horse first walks at the marker and after two or three walk steps strikes off at the canter on the other leg, the movement will be done as required, and the above note will hold good.

NOTES FOR COMPETITORS

Competitors will assist stewards in the efficient running of events by:

- (a) Reporting their presence to the competition steward while riding-in, if possible 20 minutes before their starting time, and being on hand nearer the time to receive the steward's signal to go to the arena.
- (b) Riding where directed close to the arena as soon as the previous competitor has exited and then reporting to the Chief Judge at C for instructions regarding the signal to start.

At a competition where competitors are using bridle numbers, it is not necessary to report to the judge, but merely to ride past so the bridle number is visible.

- (c) Beginning their test without delay on receiving the judges' signal to start.
 - (d) On the signal being given for an error of course, proceeding immediately to the judges to receive instructions.
- Ensuring that they are conforming to the rules regarding dress and saddlery.

NOTES FOR ORGANISERS OF DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

Introduction

The purpose of these notes is to help organisers who lack experience of the work involved by drawing attention to matters requiring consideration and possible action, depending on the type of event being organised.

The notes should be read in conjunction with the above Dressage Rules which lay down the basic requirements for all Official competitions.

The circumstances in which Dressage competitions are held vary considerably. There are events confined to Dressage and other, such as Horse Trials, in which a Dressage test is only one of the phases of the competition. There are small

riding club fixtures attracting few competitors and lasting only a few hours, as well as larger, possibly Championship, events occupying two or more days and using many arenas.

Clearly the secretarial and field work necessary will vary accordingly and organisers must use their judgement as to what is suitable for the event they are organising.

It is hoped that these notes will be useful as a reference list to ensure that nothing of importance has been overlooked. The list is intended to cover the possible requirements for major events but for smaller fixtures it is strongly recommended that a shorter working list be made from it.

In the case of Horse Trials, the provision of many of the facilities (e.g. Caterers and Toilets) would be arranged by the main Committee. Nevertheless, the Dressage representatives on this Committee should press for early decisions on matters affecting the smooth and timely planning of the Dressage phase.

General Considerations

Time - length available between starting and finishing on the day (or days)

Facilities - of site, how extensive, e.g., arena space.

Stabling facilities locally

Entries - numbers likely to compete in competitions under consideration and times to allow per competitor, etc. (See S.1)

Budget - balancing financially high cost of competitions against the number of entries.

Organisation - experience and help available

Secretarial Preparatory (roughly in chronological order)

Programme - decide on competitions to run and send to PCQ Office for approval if for Official competition.

Judges - invite (3 months ahead if possible) stating date, place, test, probable time of starting and probable duration, lunch provided, ask if pencil case should be provided. If arrangement made verbally, confirm in writing the following day

Caterers - appoint (some months in advance)

Tents, Toilets - arrange to hire if necessary

Arena Boards & Letter Markers - check if available or arrange to borrow Advertise - Signposting

Schedules with Entry Forms (See S.2) - send to competitors

Trophies - arrange to be returned, if applicable, or purchase

Competitors' numbers (to wear) order or borrow

Judges' pencil cases and stewards (including gear check and scorers) - appoint (See S.3)

Ribbons/Rosettes, Badges (Judges, Officials) - order, including extra ribbons in case of equal placings

Judges Score Sheets - order from PCQ or photocopy with a few spares

Test Sheet - make sure Judges have copies of current tests or test book

Charges - decide and/or ask, e.g., Judges, on their expenses, programmes, etc.

Sponsors - invite

Timed draw - prepare as soon as entries close

Programmes - have printed or duplicated as soon as entries close include acknowledgement of sponsors, name of caterer, arena number of each competition

Send programme or timed draws to competitors

Advise competitors if entry accepted or if on reserve list

Telephone numbers of Veterinary Surgeon and Doctor - must be available in Secretary's tent

Judges and Stewards - write to about seven days before the event, confirming appointment, time of starting, enclosing "Official" car pass and badge. Confirm to judge arrangements agreed about penciller. Send copy of test to penciller.

Score Board - prepare and rule up

B. The day before

Scratchings - receive by telephone from 9 a.m.

Competitors' times - make final adjustments between the time declarations close and enquiries may begin

Time Schedules - four copies required of each competition schedule, for distribution

Secretary - a schedule for each competition Chief Steward - a schedule for each competition

Each Judge - one for each competition to be judged (usually on pencillers clip board)

Each Ring Steward - one for each competition to be stewarded

Judges' and pencillers' lunches, coffee etc. - prepare or make out "chits" for caterer

C. On the day

The following are required on site -

Secretary's "packing list"

Table & chairs - including for "adders up" and scorers

Trophies and Ribbons/rosettes

Scoreboards or sheets chalk or marker pens

Judges' and pencillers' lunches & coffee - actual or chits

Competitor's numbers (to wear)

Competitors' starting times - list to post up Programmes.

Dressage Rules

Loud Hailer

Stop watches (if Freestyle test)

Cash

Stationery - notebook, Sellotape, pens, pencils, staplers, etc.

Judges' requirements - assembled ready for each judge:

Clip board, pencil

Scoresheets - one per competitor plus one spare

Competitors' time schedule for each competition

Organisers should label clip boards C, M, H (positions on the arena) rather than A, B, C or 1, 2, 3

Car for judging in - if judge's own is not available

Bell or whistle if required

Stewards' requirements (Chief and Ring) - assembled ready:

for each - Clipboard, pencil

for Ring Stewards - competitors' time schedule for ring stewarding

for Chief Steward- time schedules for all competitions - list giving names of judges and pencillers for each competition

Judges - settling their expenses

D. After the day

Ribbons send to competitors who did not collect on the day

PCQ - send full results within 14 days

Letters of thanks

- to judges- to owner of site

- to sponsors

- to any other special helpers

Field work

A. Planning

(a) Decide on suitable positions for arena(s) –

if several should be at least 10 metres apart if possible – locate

as free as possible from disturbance from outside sources (e.g., busy road, horses jumping)

b) Toilets, Secretary's tent, horse floats, spectators' cars, car parks, riding-in area(s).

c) Procure arena marker sticks

B. Setting out arenas (see S.4 for exact method)

(a) Fill in any holes, etc.

(b) Arrange to mow arena area, close mow centre lines

(c) Rope if danger of spectators or riders from other competitions likely to invade

(d) Arrange access for judges' cars and competitors to arenas

(e) Locate and determine limits of riding-in area(s)

(f) Arrange, if possible, that judges will not be facing the sun

C. Signposting, etc.

(a) Direction signs on neighbouring road(s)

(b) Site notices - horse floats, arena numbers, car park, fresh water, Secretary's tent, etc.

(c) Provide paper in toilets

D. On the day The Chief Steward should himself or by delegation:

a) Arrange for gate to ground to be unlocked or open at least 1-1/2 hours before the competitions begin.

b) Brief Stewards on their duties

c) Meet judges on arrival, introduce their pencillers and assign to respective arenas

d) Ensure that scoresheets are being collected

e) Ensure that competitions are running to time

f) Supervise the re-siting or extension of arenas if necessary

g) Attend to the welfare of sponsor(s) if present

h) Marshall winning competitors to receive awards

i) Ensure at prize giving, public expression of thanks to owner of site, Judges, sponsors, helpers, etc.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

S.1 Programme

Note: The following notes are primarily for the guidance of organisers of Dressage only events. However, many of the items are relevant to the Dressage section of a Horse Trials.

In such a case the appropriate "Note for Organisers of EFA Official Horse Trials" or (The Pony Club Horse Trials" should be consulted for special requirements.

Immediately after the closing date for entries, consider the entries for each competition. If they exceed the maximum acceptable, prepare a reserve list. Consider dividing the competition if more than 30 entries. Competitions must be divided if entries exceed 40. If there are insufficient entries to form a worthwhile competition, cancel it and advise applicants accordingly.

Draft the programme listing competitors in order of starting with starting times, allowing for coffee and lunch breaks.

This work is complicated when there are many competitions and several riders are competing in more than one competition (See S.2): they must be allowed time to change horses or competitions and in some cases to ride-in their second mounts. For early morning starts, select riders having short distances to travel.

It is advisable to allow at least four minutes per horse over and above the times set for the tests to allow judges to write their comments.

During a long session of judging, allowance should be made for a short interval.

S.2 Schedules with Entry Forms

A typical schedule for Official Dressage competitions including the rules may be obtained from the PCQ office.

Liability clause (as shown in Rule 43) should be printed on each Entry Form

S.3 Stewards

The following are required for an Official Dressage event or Horse Trials:

Chief Steward

Ring Stewards - in general the number required will be the greatest number of arenas in use at any one time. Their duties (on which they will be briefed by the Chief Steward) are to:

- see that judges and pencilers have all necessary equipment
- see that competitors exercise within the limits of the riding-in areas
- advise competitors if competition is running late or early.
- visit or call if competitor has not reported at due time and is known to have collected number from the Secretary
- try to keep running to time. If necessary, ask competitors to present themselves, riding at a walking pace around and just outside the arena, immediately the previous competitor has made the final salute and begin the test promptly on the receiving the signal to start.
- arrange, if possible, to fill gaps in time schedule or make necessary adjustments in adjustments in order of starting.

NB - a competitor cannot be requested to start before the time originally allocated, but consent to change will sometimes be obtained on due notice being given. Advise the judge of any change.

- see that any arena boards which have been knocked down are replaced.

NB - unless a board has been displaced across the track the replacement must be done between tests

- ensure that the judge and penciller are properly looked after during the coffee and lunch breaks and are treated as guests of the organisers.

Gear Steward - check competitors' saddle, dress, whip, etc. (see Rule 32.13)

The gear steward must note that the bridle and bits must be examined with caution. Some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. It is very important that stewards appointed to this task ensure that no cross contamination occurs when the steward's fingers - which may be covered in saliva from one horse - are placed in or near another horse's mouth. It is recommended that stewards disinfect their hands after each horse.

Runners - to collect scoresheets from pencillers and take them to the Secretary or scorers

The number required will depend on the number of competitions running concurrently. They should collect after every 2 or 3 ridden tests, taking care not to disturb judge or penciller until the sheet has been signed.

- Convey information from Secretary to Ring Steward or vice versa
- be prepared to replace arena boards (see above)

Stewards - if required for Gate, Car Park, Programmes

Stewards for refreshments - to judges and pencillers, to deal with if caterers not employed.

S.4 Setting out an arena

Place a peg in the ground at one corner of the arena. Measure one long side of the arena and place a peg at that distance. These are pegs A and C in the diagram on Page 73.

Extend the line A-C by, say, three metres to D and measure back from C towards A the same distance, to B, putting temporary pegs in at D and B.

Using about a 10-metre length of twine (the exact length doesn't matter) tie a small loop at both ends, then find the exact middle and tie another loop there. Place one end loop over the peg at B and the other end loop over the peg at D.

Holding the middle loop, tighten the string, first to the right and then, as a check, to the left, to obtain points E and F. Peg these points. If this has been done correctly, E, C and F will be in a straight line at right angles to A-C. Extend this line 20 metres from C and the third corner of the arena is fixed. Repeat the procedure at A to find the fourth corner.

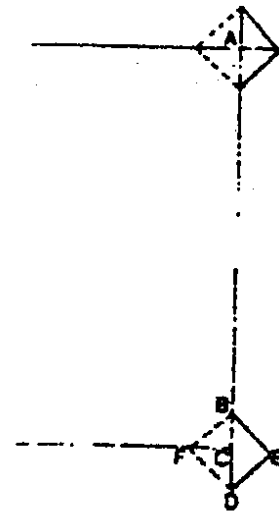
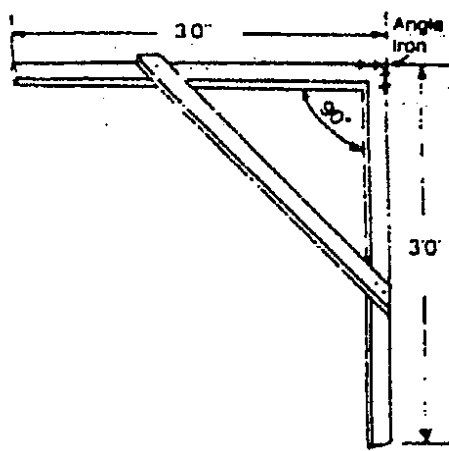
This is a quick and accurate method. With practice it will be found that further short cuts can be made, e.g., you can measure A-D (40 metres plus, say 3 metres at each end) at one go and peg B and C en route.

Variant (a) Using the above method for marking out a right angle the setting out can be started from a chosen short side or the centre line for the arena if either is preferred as a base to work from.

Variant (b) Since the main problem in setting out is to establish lines at right angles, a useful tool for one who is frequently engaged in this work is a wooden set square (easily homemade) as shown on the sketch.

If the apex of the set square is placed on the ground at a corner peg and one arm is sighted to lie along the base line, the other arm will point in a direction at right angles to it and the next corner peg can be sighted to be in this alignment. By using a set square some of the subsidiary measuring is eliminated. Furthermore, the ends and long sides of the arena can be quickly laid out by using one or more lines prepared with small loops at each end through which meat skewers or other suitable pegs can be inserted to pin them down as required. Such prepared lines become stock material and should be checked for length each time they are brought out in case shrinking or stretching has occurred.

DIAGRAM E - WOODEN SETSQUARE



ELIMINATION, TECHNICAL FAULTS & PENALTIES

The following is provided for judges as a quick reference for incidents that result in elimination, technical faults or penalties **and needs to be read in conjunction with PCA gear rule book:-**

ELIMINATION

Excessive use of whip or spur, bit or hands.

Fresh blood in the test – no appeal

Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not is strictly forbidden at an event

Clipped or shaven sensory hairs

Resistance for 20 seconds or more

Resistance that is a safety issue/dangerous to horse and/or rider, can be less than 20 seconds

Leaving the arena with all 4 feet during a test between beginning and end of a test

Unauthorised assistance

Riding in or entering competition arena without permission

Holding reins in one hand while using whip with other hand in competition arena

Third error of course

Marked lameness – no appeal

Not entering the arena after a further 45 seconds (total 90 seconds) after the bell has rung (first penalty of – 0.5% for not entering after 45 sec)

Leaving the arena unmounted

Fall of horse and/or rider between entry at A and the final salute

Failure to have a gear check

Riding with non permitted equipment or not wearing required equipment

Safety helmet must be worn and have harness secured

Blinkers, ear plugs, nasal strips and bit guards,

Bearing, running or balancing reins, chambon, deGogue etc, not permitted at event

Decoration on the horse including mane/tail with items such as ribbons, flowers, glitter

Permitted in warm-up and exercise area but NOT into competition area – running martingale (with snaffle bridle), saddle covers, headphones or similar devices

Lungeing with more than one lunge rein, lungeing with rider in the saddle, long reining.

Lungeing outside of designated area, lungeing with lunge rein attached to the curb bit

Wearing lock-in stirrups, stirrup tie downs or magnetised stirrup irons

Wearing a one eared bridle

Wearing more than one noseband

Wearing spurs that point inwards, tip points upwards or incorrect spurs.

Carrying a whip that exceeds the required length – 1 m for ponies or 1.2 m for horses

Wearing Incorrect sizes or types of bits

Using a saddle cover

Wearing a noseband that is not a dropped, cavesson, flash/hanoverian, crossed grackle/ mexican or 'ComFiTec' noseband **(PLEASE NOTE A NOSEBAND IS NOW NOT COMPULSORY)**

TECHNICAL FAULTS:

Rule Points deducted

0.5% per judge - Exceeding 45 seconds to enter the arena

0.5% per judge - Failure to salute at the entry halt or final halt

0.5% per judge - Entering the arena before the bell is sounded

0.5% per judge - Incorrect dress including boots where a penalty is provided for

0.5% per judge -Fleece or other visible padding on the upper side of bridle

0.5% per judge -Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages in the space around the arena

0.5% per judge -Wearing boots, bell boots and/or bandages if worn in the arena

Deductions for marks in movements:

• **Use of Voice**

• **Tongue – whenever see**

FEI Guidelines for Pre and Post Competition training techniques – position of the horse's head - stretching

1. Background

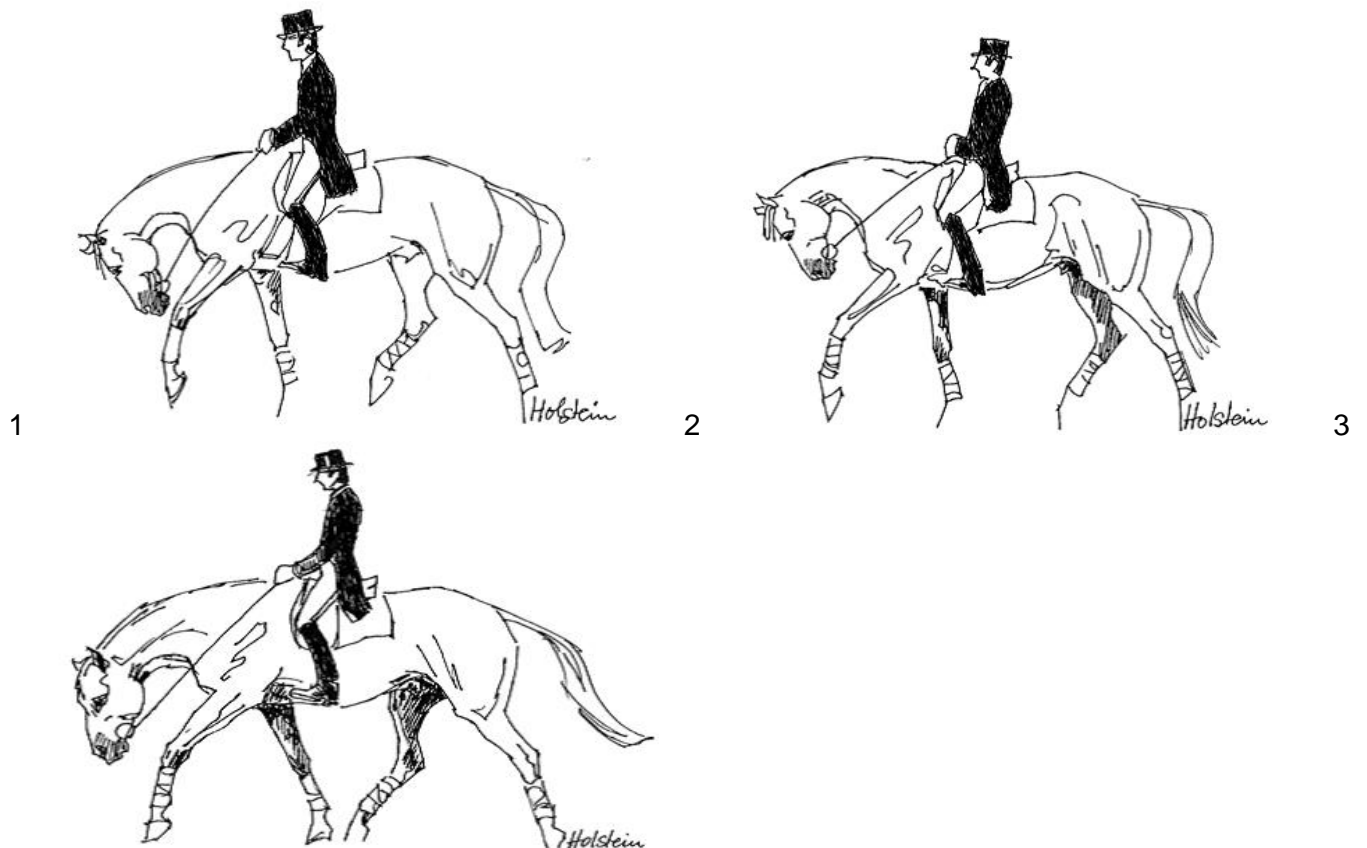
The use of correctly executed stretching techniques, both before and after training and competition, is recognised as an important and long-established practice in almost every physical sport. In equestrian sport it is used for the on-going suppleness and health of the equine athletes.

2. Permitted stretches

Stretching principally involves the lengthening of the horse's ligaments and muscles (soft tissue) and can be done at the halt (statically) or in motion (dynamically).

Athletes should aim to stretch all the relevant groups of muscles within the horse's body, especially the muscles involved in hind leg locomotion, but the part that will be most visual to both stewards and the public will most likely be the horse's neck.

Neck stretches may take several different forms. 'Long, deep and round' (see Diagram 1) and 'low, deep and round' (see Diagram 2) and 'long and low' (see Diagram 3) are just three commonly used examples but there are other variations involving both longitudinal and lateral flexion which result in different neck positions.



3. Extreme flexion

In assessing the position of the head carriage, the Steward will be mindful of each horse's natural conformation, especially in relation to native breeds or ponies, and will therefore use discretion in determining this.

Deliberate extreme flexions of the neck involving either high, low or lateral head carriages, should only be performed for very short periods. If performed for longer periods the steward will intervene.

Movements which involve having the horse's head and neck carriage in a sustained or fixed position should only be performed for periods not exceeding approximately ten minutes without change. Change may constitute a period of relaxation and lengthening or a movement which involves stretching the head and the neck of the horse.

It is the steward's responsibility to ensure that riders respect the above procedure and intervene if required.

4. Variation of stretches & neck positions.

Stretches of the horse's neck maybe specific and appropriate to each horse and equestrian discipline, but no single neck position should be maintained which may lead to tiredness or stress.

5. Method of achieving stretches

It is imperative that stretching should be executed by unforced and non-aggressive means. By 'unforced' it is meant that the rider is not permitted to use rough, or abrupt aids or apply constant unyielding pressure on the horse's mouth through a fixed arm and hand position. It is the responsibility of the steward to intervene if these requirements are not respected.

6. Action by the Steward in the case of incorrect behaviour of athlete in relation to flexion of the head and neck

The steward will intervene should he observe:

- Neck stretching achieved through forced, or aggressive riding
- The use of extreme flexion if it does not comply with the above
- A rider deliberately maintaining a sustained fixed head and neck carriage longer than approximately ten minutes
- In cases when the horse is in a state of general stress and/or fatigue

The steward may also ask the rider to walk for a certain period in situations where the rider's stress may cause undesired riding.

7. Maximum duration of pre-competition warm-up and post-competition cool down periods

Only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Chief Steward, may a training session exceed one hour. The training session must include a number of relaxation periods.

Riding the horse at the walk whether prior to, or following the training session, is not considered to be part of the one hour training session. There should be at least one hour break between any training/warm-up periods.

Repetition movements carried out in the practice arena, following a rider's performance in the competition arena, may not exceed a period of ten minutes.

8. Exercise / Training arena

All training sessions, including pre-competition warm-up, may only be performed in the official training arena while under the supervision of stewards. Use of a training arena outside the official training period, and/or in an unsupervised arena, may at the discretion of the Ground Jury lead to the rider's disqualification.

During competition preparation periods, and the duration of the competition itself, the Chief Steward must be present in the training arena, or be in a position to observe the training arena at events where numerous training arenas are in use.

If the Chief Steward is unable to be present himself, it is his responsibility to ensure that a steward with the required experience and knowledge is appointed to supervise the training arena.