



FACT SHEET – Running FEI & EA Para Equestrian (PE) Classes at Dressage Events

Running Para Equestrian FEI & EA classes at Dressage Club competition can be easily achieved. It is the future plan for Para Equestrian to become fully integrated with able-bodied dressage.

The difference between FEI Para Equestrian and EA Para Equestrian Classes

National and Club Competitions are known as EA Para Equestrian Events with International Events being identified as FEI Para Equestrian Events.

A number of organising committees are running dressage and Para Equestrian Events side by side already. The differences between running an able bodied dressage class and a Para Equestrian class is that there are different tests and some classes only require a 20x40m arena.

There are also specific judges who are qualified to judge PE but these judges are all able to judge open classes as well, so in most cases there is no need to bring in extra judges. PE athletes may also compete in Open dressage classes, with the use of their compensating aids which is listed on their classification card which they will have on them. The classification card explains any extra or modified equipment they are allowed to use, or the movement they do not have to perform e.g. sitting trot.

These classes are to be judged the same as Dressage classes and all PE athletes must be classified with a physical disability and be allocated with a specific grade.

A club must be a minimum of an EA Sport Affiliate club to use EA and FEI Para Equestrian Rules and Tests.

Para Equestrian Grades for both FEI and EA:

Para Equestrian has 5 Grades and athletes are graded according to their functional ability:

- Grade IA - walk only tests
- Grade IB - walk and trot
- Grade II - walk and trot but canter allowed in the Freestyle
- Grade III - walk, trot and canter and may show lateral work in Freestyle
- Grade IV - walk, trot, canter, canter half-pirouettes, three and four sequence changes and lateral work.

Size of Arena's for Para Equestrian Dressage:

- Grades 1a, 1b and 2 are held in a 20x40m arena
- Grades 3 and 4 can also be held in a 20x60m arena. (If in a 20x40, specific tests are used)

Judges for Para Equestrian Events:

- International Level (CPEDI 1-3* Events):
 - 3 judges per class
 - 2 international judges with an FEI Para Equestrian Accreditation
 - 1 National PE Judge (see FEI Rule Book for requirements).
- FEI Tests in an official EA class– 2 judges per class, National PE Accredited (See EA Rule book for requirements)
- Unofficial tests (on request from PE competitor) – EA accredited judges can be used



Rider Requirements:

- Registered with EA
- Have a current PE ID Card which shows their grading as well as any compensating aids. For FEI classes, the riders must have an FEI Classification and this can be checked on the FEI classification Master List is available online <http://www.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/about-paraequestrian>
- Blind riders have special needs and should be carefully considered, particularly with respect to warming up arenas– detail in the FEI Rule Book

Horse Requirements:

- See new membership structure on the Equestrian Australia website.

Allowances for Para Equestrian Riders at events:

- Grade 1 and 2 riders are allowed to have their trainer/coach warm up the horse for them.
- The nominated persons must only ride for 30 minutes in a total of 24 hours and must be off the horse 15 minutes prior to the start of the rider's test.
- This will be self-managed at local competitions, but is under stewards control at international level competition (3* and above)
- Presentations: make sure prize winners are not expected to mount the podium for prize giving ceremonies. A flat, wheelchair accessible area is best.

Venue Facilities:

- If the venue is set up such that a mounting block is available, this would be ideal, but most riders are used to providing their own, so this is not essential.
- A wheelchair access toilet is necessary but public venues are already required to have wheelchair access facilities so most club venues will already meet this requirement.
- Disabled parking and preferred parking close to amenities

Para Equestrian Tests:

There are 4 FEI tests in each grade:

- Novice test
- Team test
- Individual championship test
- Freestyle test

There are also EA Para Equestrian tests which are of an easier standard and are designed as entry level tests

**Rulebooks for Para Equestrian:**

- International
 - PE Dressage Rules can be found on the FEI website and a copy should be available at your event.
- National
 - PE Dressage Rules can be found on the EA website and a copy should be available at your event

It is up to the Organising Committee which tests are offered, usually 2 test per grade with the Freestyle only being offered at major events. There are not large numbers of PE competitors so will rarely be enough for a full class, but in many instances, athletes will approach an OC to request that they be allowed to ride their test at the end of another class. This is of course up to the discretion of the OC but is strongly supported by EA.

If you are considering offering Para Equestrian classes at your events and would like some further information please don't hesitate to contact National Performance Director Julia Battams on 0450 874 197 or Sara Latham at EA National office on 02 8762 7777. We would be very happy to help.