

Dressage Queensland

Event Manual

As of 10 January 2026



DRESSAGE
QUEENSLAND

EVENT MANUAL

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Dressage Queensland Event Manual.

The concept for this manual was developed by Julie Peterson-Smith in 2001 and first came into being in January 2002.

Since then, there have been many changes with the introduction of a new EA dressage rule book in 2004 along with new dressage tests, with amendments to rules becoming effective on 1 January each year. The current EA Dressage Rule Book is effective from 28 January 2026.

This manual has been revised to make it more user friendly by improving the layout of the information and to assist Organisers, and offers brief excerpts taken from the EA Dressage National Rules (hereinafter referred to as the Rule Book), together with practical advice on the procedures set up by Dressage Queensland to ensure those events meet EA requirements.

The rule book can be downloaded from [Equestrian Australia/Dressage Rules](#)

Should organisers have any questions about the conduct of events, please contact the EQ office, whose staff may be able to answer the question or, if not, direct the question/s to the appropriate person within Dressage Queensland or the Officials Sub-committee.

It is important that all involved in the sport know the rules under which they compete. As well, organisers or volunteers must be aware of their responsibilities and entitlements. This handbook will be a key source of that knowledge.

Dressage Queensland welcomes feedback on the content or expression of the handbook, and hope that this document will promote a more user-friendly guide to dressage in Queensland.

Sally Devlin
Chair Dressage Queensland

January 2026

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SECTION 1 – CONTACT DETAILS

1.1 DRESSAGE QUEENSLAND

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Equestrian Queensland

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SECTION 2 – DRESSAGE RULES

2.1 Affiliated clubs that wish to conduct Official Competitive and Participation Events in Queensland should ensure that they have copies of the following, which are available from Equestrian Australia for a nominal fee or online.

- EA Dressage Competition Rules (Effective 1 January 2026)
- EA Dressage Tests (Effective 1 January 2023)
- EA Freestyle Tests (Effective 1 February 2019)
- EA Preparatory Tests (Effective 1 January 2023)
- FEI Rules for Dressage Events (Effective 1 January 2026)
- FEI Dressage Tests (Effective – various)

Note: Rule amendments and test updates are ongoing. Please check the EA website for updates and amendments.

2.2 The EA National Dressage Rule Book (referred to hereinafter as the Rule Book) contains the current rules for competitors and for the conduct of Official Competitive or Participant competitions, as well as very useful advice for organisers for conducting Official Competitive or Participant events.

2.3 All Official Competitive and Participant events must be run under the EA Dressage Rule Books. Clubs affiliated to the EA must also follow rules relevant to running Restricted (also referred to as Club) competitions.

SECTION 3– DRESSAGE EVENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 During the period of September/October of each year, the Dressage Queensland Calendar Co-ordinator will contact all affiliated dressage clubs requesting dates for their Official Competitive and Participant events in the following year.
- 3.2 The Committee reviews these dates to try to minimise clashes of Official events on the same day and may impose limits on each club of up to 6 **Official Competitive and Participant events** days each year at the Committee's discretion.
- 3.3 Events are then listed in the Dressage printable yearly calendar and on the EQ website calendar. This calendar is not static and is constantly being updated so ensure you have the latest calendar by accessing the Equestrian QLD website /Sport/ Dressage/Events/2026 PDF calendar
- 3.4 All Official (competitive and Participant) events must be approved by the SDA
- 3.5 Dressage Queensland must also be notified of changes to events including cancellations or rescheduling.
- 3.6 **Hot Weather Policy:**

It is suggested that in the hotter months of January and February Organising Committees should only hold dressage events/competitions in the early morning or late afternoon when the weather conditions are cooler. The EA Hot Weather Policy can be found here

https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/EA_Hot_Weather_Policy_13042018.pdf

- Dressage events/competitions are highly recommended to be cancelled if a forecast of 35°C or higher for the area where the event is being held is predicted by BOM or local weather apps.
- Consideration of the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature is also required in areas of high humidity. Refer to the EA Hot Weather Policy for further details.

SECTION 4 – EQ OFFICE REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIAL EVENTS

4.1 Entry Checks

- 4.1.1 Membership checks must be submitted to the EQ office no less than 5 working days prior to the start of the event.
- 4.1.2 If clubs use Nominate or other electronic scoring systems to record entries, then the EQ office requires the Excel extraction of the entry check report. If clubs do not use Nominate then the EQ office requires a copy of the entries in an editable format (preferably Excel) containing the following details:
1. Horse EA number
 2. Rider EA number
 3. Owner EA number
 4. Horse name
 5. Rider name
 6. Owner name
 7. Class classification (i.e. competitive, participant or club)
- 4.1.3 On return of the entry check from the EQ office, it should be immediately passed onto the scorer so any corrections can be made prior to the start of the event.

4.2 Submitting Results

- 4.2.1 *It is vital for EQ office and Dressage Queensland to have accurate and full results of all Official events, so the competitors' grading points records and trophy point records are correct.* Therefore, full results must be sent into the EQ office (support@equestrianqld.com.au) within **seven days of the event**, to record the grading points for registered horses, and to provide records for selectors to choose interstate team representatives.

All Official (Competitive and Participant) results should be sent to the EQ Office - admin@equestrianqld.com.au. Results should be sent in extracted excel format from whatever scoring system is being used with Ponies, Young Riders and AOR marked (where applicable). At the moment, it is not necessary to provide results in the new EA Results Template, as this is still a work in progress.

SECTION 5 – EVENT CLASSIFICATION AND SITE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Official Competitive events will be classified. Scores from all Official Competitive events (star events and non-star events) will be used for the calculation of DQ Squads and annual performance trophy awards.

5.2 Star Championship Events

For an event to be approved as a **Regional Championship (Star*** status), and for results to be recorded as such, the event should ideally meet the following requirements:

- The event must be at least a two-day event (if adequate stabling is not available, clubs may consider running the event over two separate weekends with Preliminary to Elementary competitions offered on one weekend day, and Medium to Grand Prix competitions on a separate weekend day).
- Only Official Competitive competitions may be offered (there may be some exception in relation to Star* events in the regions – DQ approval required for any variation).
- Internal club member-only or participant competitions are not to be included in the program (there may be some exemption in relation to Star* events in the regions – DQ approval required for any variation).
- All levels of competition from Preliminary to Grand Prix must be offered in the schedule.
- There must be two tests at each level and preference for entry is to be given to competitors who enter both tests.
- An overall Champion at each level should be awarded as per the EA rule book.
- Judges to be E level and above. E and D level judges must judge with a C-level or above judge.
- A minimum of two judges must be used for each competition.
- All competitions are open to ponies. OC may decide to offer separate pony competitions.
- It is encouraged for clubs to offer AOR divisions or rosettes, however this is at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- Young Horse and also freestyle competitions may be included at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- Balloting – see 5.2.1 below.
- FEI competitions must be run on sand or sand/fibre arenas.
- Where the arena surround surface is different to the competition arena surface, the chief judge should permit riders to enter the arena as soon as the previous rider has exited and before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded, the new rider starts the test from within the arena, as per EA rule book.
- Safe stabling and/or yard facilities and also adequate wash bay facilities should be provided for all horses. Electric fencing is **not permitted** amongst car/float parking or camping areas. The FEI standard for stabling is 3m x 3m as a minimum.
- A Technical Delegate **may** be appointed as per EA Rule Book.
 - The TD must be independent of the OC.
 - the TD **MUST** approve the schedule prior to distribution
 - the TD is to submit a comprehensive report to the OC of the event and a copy to DQ within 21 days of the event
 - it is ideal if the TD is not one of the judges of the event but could be a reserve judge for smaller competitions
- At least one accredited Steward **must** be appointed. They must be at least a Level 1 accredited steward. Where one steward cannot monitor all competition areas, etc., a second steward needs to be appointed. A Chief Steward is, **highly recommended**, to be appointed, when there is more than one steward required, as per Dressage Rule Book to monitor the warm-up and exercise area/s, stabling and camping areas with the welfare of the horse in mind. Refer to Section 6 of the EA Rule book for definition of roles and further information.
 - If there is only one steward at the event, then they are the Chief Steward

The surface of the competition arenas is vital to the safety and performance of the horses competing and must be of a suitable quality as per the EA Dressage Rule Book. Please see Section 5.4 below for the rules regarding the requirements of the competition arenas. As much as is practically possible, the event venue should attempt to meet the following considerations (*Dressage Queensland acknowledges it is not possible for all venues to meet these requirements and may still allow clubs to run **Star*** events even when all criteria are not met, so long as the venue is safe and suitable for high level competition*).

- Designated and fenced warm-up areas with surfaces similar to the competition arena should ideally be provided. This area should be cordoned off from traffic and only competitors should be allowed access. Organisers must ensure that spectators, dogs, children, prams etc. are kept out of this area to allow horses to work safely. The size of the area provided should ideally be at least 60m x 20m and where possible one such area should be made available for each two competition arenas – that is, if there are 4 competition arenas ideally there should be 2 warm-up arenas.
- A designated and lunging area should be provided. Ideally this should be fenced.
- A clear public address system, which extends to the stables, camping, parking and warm-up areas should be used if available.
- Upgrading exams for judges may be held at Star* events (does not include the regions) and therefore OCs should be willing to cater for exams being held should the Dressage Queensland Officials Subcommittee request them.

5.2.1 Balloting – Ideally all entries should be accepted, and competitions should be split rather than balloting entries. However, it is recognised that restrictions in both time and space may not allow this to occur. If balloting of competitions is to occur, due to numbers exceeding the maximum of 35 per competition, then the following methodology is recommended.

- a. Preference must be given to riders entering both tests at a level. The number of horses in a competition can be less than 35 at the OC discretion.
- b. The balloting system to be used by the Club must be specified in the schedule and approved by DQ and TD. It is preferred that balloting is based on qualifying scores.
- c. Sponsors are not eligible for automatic entry to competitions and are to be balloted along with all other entries.
- d. If balloting is based on scores the following is recommended:
 - A minimum of one Official Competitive score (this score may be HC) or equivalent overseas score for the horse at the level of competition it intends to compete within the preceding 12 months is to be provided. This score can be provided with a copy of the performance card and can be checked on the National Database or with Equestrian Queensland. Horses will be placed in descending order based on this score.
 - horses with no scores obtained at an Official Competitive event may supply a score from an Official Participant event. Scores from restricted internal club days may only be provided at the discretion of the OC and provided a suitably accredited judge for the level being submitted was presiding over the test. These horses will be placed in descending order after the horses that provide an Official score.
 - Horses with no score to be placed at the end of the ballot list in order of receiving the entry.

5.3 For an event to be approved as a **State Championship** allocated by Dressage Queensland, the event must comply with the requirement of 5.2 above plus the relevant section in the EA Rule Book.

5.4 SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS

5.4.1 The surface of the arenas is vital to the safety and performance of the horses competing.

The following rule from the EA Dressage Rule Book applies:

Arena Requirements

Arenas should be set out to the dimension shown in the diagrams in Annex A. The arena(s):

- should be level and separated from the public (including photographers and video operators) by a distance all round of 15 metres if possible but ideally at least 10 metres
- must consist of a low continuous fence about 0.3 metres high
- are to be placed at least 10 metres apart, preferably 15 metres if room permits
- should be positioned where judges are not facing the sun

- the letters placed around the arena should be clearly visible and be placed about 0.5 meters outside the arena fence
- the centre line must have the letter A placed in line (not offset) with C and be at least 10 metres (preferably 15 metres) back from the arena to allow horses a straight track to enter the arena. The width of the entrance must be at least 2 metres and not greater than 4 metres.

The following are not permitted in the construction of an arena:

- stakes which are driven into the ground
- unbreakable rope
- unbreakable chain
- unbreakable tape
- line marking or rope on the ground
- thin poles on the ground e.g. jumping rails

Dressage Queensland suggests using 50mm PVC pipe on freestanding stands. This is to comply with legal Duty of Care and Insurance requirements.

- 5.4.2 Designated warm up areas with a surface similar to the competition arena should ideally be provided. This area should be cordoned off and only competitors and their grooms/trainers should be allowed access. Organisers must ensure that spectators, dogs, children, prams etc. are kept out of this area to allow the horses to work safely.
- 5.4.3 Safe stabling and/or yard facilities and also adequate wash bay facilities should ideally be provided for all horses. Electric fencing is **not permitted** amongst car/float parking or camping areas. The FEI standard for stabling is a minimum of 3m x 3m.

SECTION 6 – OFFICIAL COMPETITIVE, PARTICIPANT & PONY DRESSAGE EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

6.1 OFFICIAL COMPETITIVE & PARTICIPANT EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

- Dressage events are composed of one or more competitions between individual mounted competitors, performing specified Dressage Tests.
- Official Competitive and Participant events and competitions are conducted under current EA Dressage Rules. They are sponsored by, or run on behalf of the EA.
- Competitions that are restricted to club members only of the EA Affiliated Club cannot be Official competitions.
- EA & FEI level Young Horse and Freestyle tests are Official but do not attract grading points.
- EA-affiliated clubs must be current financial members of the EA to be able to conduct Official Competitive or Participant Events. If the club is not a financial member at the time of the event, then **all scores and grading points** from the event will not count towards upgrading, trophies and State Squad selection.
- For an event or competition to be classified as Official Competitive or Participant by EA, the organisers must indicate their intention in writing to Dressage Queensland **before** the date of the event or competition. (This would normally be done through the declaration of dates for the Calendar at the end of September of each year.) Official Competitions must be approved by Dressage Queensland and must be included on the calendar prior to close of entries to ensure all members are aware of the opportunity to enter.
- Horses/ponies must be EA registered and have identification numbers issued by EQ for Official Competitive competitions (horses/ponies do not need to be EA registered for Official Participant competitions).
- Riders must be full senior or junior members of EA to compete in EA Competitive events. Riders must be participant members to compete in EA Participant events.

6.2 PARTICIPANT EVENTS/COMPETITIONS ADVANTAGES

- These competitions provide a starting point into formal EA regulated competition without competitors having to go to the expense of registering their horse or obtaining a performance card or bridle number.
- All Participant competitions run by EQ affiliated clubs will be under the jurisdiction of EA and will be judged by trained and accredited dressage judges.
- No grading points are acquired for horses in these events and EA horse registration is not required. Many EQ affiliated clubs will hold Restricted/Club & Participant events, where both club members and EQ Participant & Competitor members may compete
- To enter a participant competition the rider must be financial with EA (Participation, Junior or Competitive).

6.3 PONY DRESSAGE EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

- All EA competitions are open to ponies unless specified. Separating Horses and Ponies in results is at the discretion of the Organising Committee

SECTION 7 – DRESSAGE & FREESTYLE TESTS

7.1 DRESSAGE TESTS

- Dressage tests are reviewed regularly by the EA and FEI, and revised tests are issued. Please check on the EA website for the latest versions. Only the official current EA tests must be used for all Official Competitive and Participant competitions.
- EA Freestyle Tests for Novice, Elementary, Medium and Advanced are effective 1 January 2023
- EA Official tests are the EA tests approved by the Equestrian Australian Dressage Committee (EADC) and the current FEI tests.
- Current FEI level tests are in the FEI Rules – www.fei.org
- All tests are available for downloading from the following website:
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage-rules>

7.2 FREESTYLE TESTS

- Freestyle tests can be exciting spectator events and encourage skills of individuality and flair in riders. They are ridden to music designed to complement the test that the rider arranges. Freestyle tests include compulsory movements, but these can be ridden at any point in the test that fits in with the overall design.
- Each rider composes the test with accompanying music and brings his/her own CD or USB Flash Drive (preferred) to the competition or uploads to an event cloud folder prior to the event, depending on requirements set out in the event schedule or competitor's letter. The organising body must provide suitable equipment to play the music for the competitor and for the Judges and spectators to hear. It is a good idea to test the equipment on the day before the tests begin! Tests have a limited time and special requirements from judges to mark technical merit, originality and choreography, and harmony with the music.
- Freestyle competitions are Official but do not attract grading points for placegetters.
- Novice or Elementary freestyle competitions can still be conducted as Participant competitions.
- Comprehensive information about Freestyles and compulsory movements at each level can be found in Section 8 of the Rule Book.

7.3 PREPARATORY TESTS

- Preparatory Tests (Walk/Trot), effective from 1 January 2013, have been developed by EA and are available for use by clubs and can be downloaded from the www.equestrian.org.au website.

SECTION 8 - JUDGES

- 8.1 For a competition to be classified as Official Competitive or Participant, it must be judged by judges chosen from the National Judges List of Dressage Judges. The list of National Judges can be found using the Officials search facility on the EA website <https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/official-finder>. A list of Queensland Dressage Judges is maintained and updated by Dressage Queensland and can be found here: <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/dressage/for-clubs>. If the judges used in the competition are not on this list, then the competition will not be classified as Official and the competitors will not gain official scores and grading points.
- 8.2 The judges appointed for the event are known collectively as the Ground Jury.
- 8.3 Organisers should refer to the Rules Book, Section 3.21 for the rules regarding the number of judges required for Competitive and Participation competitions at each level and for the position of the judges around the arena.
- 8.4 All judges MUST receive a copy of the draw at the same time as the competitors. This should be at least 72 hours before the start of the event. The Judges names must also appear on the draw. This will help in eliminating possible conflicts of interest as per Rule 1.8 e.g. pupil judging. We all know that judges do change but the judges appointed at the time of the draw going out must be included in the draw.
- 8.5 Each judge needs a writer to write the judge's marks and comments on the test sheet or tablet. Where paper scoring occurs, each writer needs a clipboard as support for writing, pens and a copy of the draw for their competition. Writers must ensure that they mark the position of the Judge clearly on each sheet and ensure that the judge initials any corrections and signs the completed test sheet.
- 8.6 Writers should be briefed on their role if they do not have prior experience and be given access to a training session if paperless scoring (a tablet) is used.
- 8.7 A full copy of the final results must be made accessible to each Judge at the end of the competition for the purposes of a 'friendly' discussion with other Judges and also for dealing with rider questions, comments or complaints. Where there is a discrepancy in marks between the judges of 8% or more in EA competitions, 5% or more in FEI competitions there MUST be a discussion between the judges of the competition.
- 8.8 The Chief Judge must sign, and on written sheets, note the time on the final result sheet. The time is important in relation to defining the complaint period of 30 minutes. Should the Chief Judge not be available the TD or Chief Steward may perform this function.
- 8.9 Judges must be paid as per the Judges Honorarium current in the EA Rule Book, unless by prior negotiation.
- 8.10 Organisers should ensure Judges receive drinks and meals during the competition.
- 8.11 Organisers should recognise that judging requires concentration and a clear head if impartiality is to be maintained for the benefit of the riders. Therefore, judging for long periods or without a break for relaxation and some sustenance is very tiring. Organisers will need to add time for such breaks into their program, perhaps also leaving a lunch box at the car or hut for these breaks.
- 8.12 Organisers should note that judges should not be required to judge more than 40 horses in a day.
- 8.13 If a judge has more than a 2 hour drive to the venue and is commencing judging before 10am the OC should offer, and the judge has the right to request, overnight accommodation the night before. If a judge does not complete their judging until after 6.30pm then the OC should offer, and the judge has the right to request, overnight accommodation.
- 8.14 Where a judge has agreed to be billeted such accommodation is not to be with a competitor that they are scheduled to judge as per Rule 1.8.

8.15 Protocol for Obtaining Judges and Requirements for Judges at the Event:

Whether judges work full-time or not it should be remembered that judges are giving up their weekends for very little compensation and maybe expected to travel long distances to often then sit in a hot car for hours, if not the full day. Further to meet the competency required to judge they have also had to spend time undertaking studies etc. with requisite attendance at workshops, shadow judging etc. to ensure that their skills and knowledge are current. In a recent survey, many judges remarked how well they were treated at some clubs and in particular the basic courtesies (e.g. good communication prior to event, checking if they require water during the day, morning tea, a good standard of accommodation provided, etc.).

Prior to the Event:

- Invitations to judges should be made at least 3 months prior to an event, preferably by email or letter.
- Confirm receipt of acceptance immediately and arrangements for future communication.
- Judges should be informed immediately if the event is cancelled for any reason.
- Provide the judges with an Organising Committee member's contact details in the case of an emergency on the day of the event.
- The timed draw must be made available to all judges at least 3 days before the Event and must include judge allocation (for conflict of interest purposes).
- Check to see if judges can provide their own writer, if not ensure judges are allocated a capable writer.
- There should be a break for judges of at least 15 minutes after every 10th horse throughout the competition, e.g. if competition size is 30 -35horses, then 2 x 15 mins breaks. If the competition runs over a lunch period, then a lunch break of at least 30 minutes should be provided.
- If a judge is required to judge more than one competition, there should be a break between the last horse in one competition and the first horse in the next to allow the judge time to read the new test, move positions, visit the amenities, get a drink etc. This break should be approximately 10 minutes where possible. Once again, consider a lunch break for judges judging large or multiple competitions.
- Ensure that accommodation, if required for judges, is of a good standard (remember they are your guests).

At the Event:

- Meet the judges on arrival.
- Introduce the judges to their writers.
- Arrange a car if a judge has travelled with someone else (the writer's car may be an option).
- Have refreshments available on arrival for judges.
- Advise the judge who is to act as the Technical Delegate, Chief Steward, First Aid or as Ground Jury members (if not already known).
- Advise the judge of their arena number and arena location.
- Give judge/writer their folder and/or tablet which includes details of their position on the arena and a final list of competitors and times showing all scratchings.
- Advise the judge of arrangements for morning and afternoon tea and lunch. In addition, supply judge with a bottle of water. On hot days check if further water is required regularly.
- Give Chief Judge/writer a bell or whistle if not judging from a car.
- Ensure that judges are properly looked after during the coffee and lunch breaks and are treated as guests of the organisers.
- Provide a Judge Honorarium form to each judge so payment can be made at end of event in the case of cash or cheque payment. Alternatively, payment may be made direct to the judge's bank account if bank details are provided.
- Ensure judges receive a copy of the final results prior to them being posted.
- Provide a quiet area, away from the scoreboard, where judges can review results with fellow judges or riders who request to talk to them.

SECTION 9 – TECHNICAL DELEGATE AND CHIEF STEWARD

9.1 TECHNICAL DELEGATE (TD)

- 9.1.1 A TD **may** be appointed for all Star* events and **must** be appointed for State Championships. The duties of the Technical Delegate are detailed in Section 6.2 of the Rule Book.
- 9.1.2 Should be appointed at least 6 wks before the event, preferably longer.
- 9.1.3 It is ideal if the TD is not one of the judges of the event but could be a reserve judge for smaller events.
- 9.1.4 The TD must be independent from the OC.
- 9.1.5 The TD must be appointed at the beginning of the planning of the event and must approve the schedule, draw and program before they are published.
- 9.1.6 The TD is required to provide a written report to the Organising Committee and a copy to DQ within 21 days of the event. A template for TD reporting for Regional Championships and State Championships can be found here <http://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage>.
- 9.1.7 The TD is to be paid as per the current EA Rule Book.

9.2 CHIEF STEWARD

- 9.2.1 It is compulsory for a Chief Steward to be present at all official competitive events.
- 9.2.2 The Chief Steward must be independent from the OC
- 9.2.3 The Chief Steward is to be paid as per the current EA Rule Book.

Section 10 – Ground Jury

Refer to Section 6 – Rule book – Roles of Officials.

The Ground Jury consists of all the judges at the event.

It is recommended that a President of the Ground Jury be appointed each day. See rule 6.1 (c) for details.

The Ground Jury is authorized to:

- Intervene in order to prevent any abuse of horses by riders, grooms, owners or any other person
- Intervene in order to prevent any contravention of the common principles of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship.

See rule 6.1.1 for responsibilities of the Ground Jury.

SECTION 11 – CONDUCTING THE EVENT

- 11.1 The actual conduct of an event is at the discretion of the organising body, as long as the current EA Dressage Rules are observed. It is useful to appoint an Event Director or Chief Steward who ensures the smooth running of the event, accepts objections, and takes care of complaints.
- 11.2 EA Dressage Rules– Annex G - Notes for dressage event organisers, is a very useful section of the current Rule Book that can be used as a checklist for the jobs that need to be done.
- 11.3 Please consult the current Rule Book for:
- Arenas Rule 3.6 and Annex A
 - Eligibility of horses & riders Section 4
 - Judges Sections 6 and 7 – Rules for Judges and OCs
- 11.4 Protocol for entering the arena in exceptional circumstances

Note – This is a Chief Judge and OC decision

In accordance with Rule 3.7 if the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, the Chief Judge, in consultation with the OC, will decide as to whether it is permitted for that competition to allow the competitors to undertake their final circling of the arena inside the arena. Such decision MUST be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition.

If such approval is given the competitor is to enter the arena and when the bell has been rung (car horn sounded) the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once the rider is on the centre line.

The next horse in the competition can enter the arena as soon as the previous horse leaves the arena at A.

Judges should ensure that each competitor has equal time in the arena prior to their test.

This is a Chief Judge and OC decision

SECTION 12 – FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

Accidents can and do happen at Horse Sports Events. If they do, they have the potential to expose organisers to risk and liability if it can be shown that a competition was permitted to proceed in sub-standard conditions, weather, footing etc. or if the first aid procedures in place were insufficient and therefore contributed to the severity or complications of an injury.

From a public liability standpoint and to protect the Club and its members, the Organising Committee should have specific guidelines in place for deciding who is to render medical care. This is not an issue that can be set in stone, rather guidelines that should be followed.

The EQ First Aid Policy and Procedure requires the following to be carried out:

- A current and approved standard of First Aid equipment (a First Aid Kit) is available on the Grounds.
- First aid must meet at least minimum medical requirements, as per EA general regulations & policies. These can be found at: [EA Minimum Medical Response Policy](#).
- Where the event has multiple 'precinct's' that are not in the immediate vicinity of each other, one first aid officer per precinct must be available to ensure that a first aid officer can respond to an incident within 3 minutes.
- Appropriate Emergency Procedure and Emergency Contact details are readily available at the event organiser's office.
- The First Aider contact details should be displayed in several locations around the grounds such as on the scoreboard, near the stables/yards etc.
- Event organisers ensure that an accurate record is kept of all incidents requiring First Aid Treatment and that this record is kept by the Club for a minimum of five years as required by Federal Legislation. Incident report forms can be found here <http://www.equestrian.org.au/Insurance>
- OCs should ensure designated first aid officials/medical service providers are present once the event has officially started; this includes arena familiarisation periods.

SECTION 13 – SCHEDULE AND ENTRY FORM

- 13.1 The schedule or program for the event should give details of the venue, the competitions available along with any restrictions for entry, the tests and numbers, entry fees, the disclaimer and any other details. It is recommended that in the schedule or the program of the event OCs include the EA Code of Conduct, outlines expected standards of behaviour by all involved in the event.
- 13.2 The standard entry form includes details such as name of horse, registration number and identification number, name of rider and membership number, entry fee, name, email address and mobile number of the competitor. If the horse is not owned by the competitor, the owner's details must also be included on the entry form. This includes name and address, and EA membership number. The entry form must also indicate if the horse being entered is a mare, stallion or pony. Additional details required by the organising body, such as stabling request, may be added. If using an electronic entry system, this information should be automatically included.
- 13.3 In relation to Official Competitive and Participant competitions the affiliate club conducting the event should contact EQ once entries have closed to check that the rider is a current EA member, the horse/s are currently registered and hold a current Dressage performance card (if Competitive event) and to also confirm their current grading. Many people shorten the name of a horse or record it incorrectly, and the registration number is unique for identifying a horse correctly. This is also vital for the EQ office to record grading points correctly when results are sent in.
- 13.4 Entries should be checked to ensure that competitors have entered the correct test level according to the number of grading points they have at the closing date of entries, and that all details requested are provided.
- 13.5 Riders should notify Event Organisers immediately on receipt of the draw of any possible conflict of interest e.g. instructor judging pupil etc.

SECTION 14 - DRAW

- 14.1 The number of competitors per competition up to an including Prix St Georges is 35. Where this number is exceeded the competition may be divided or a reserve list established.
- 14.2 A **timed draw** must be prepared for the event with each competitor's time for each competition indicated. The test sheets indicate approximate draw time per test.
- 14.3 OCs should not change horses in a draw unless extenuating circumstances necessitate such a change.
- 14.4 Where a competitor enters **two horses in the same competition** there should ideally be at least 90 minutes between rides in EA level competitions and FEI level competitions if the draw allows. The draw is to be strictly adhered to and riders with two horses entered in the same competition must not swap them.
- 14.5 Where a competitor enters the **same horse in two or more competitions** it is strongly recommended that there is a break of 60 to 90 minutes between the rides in EA level competitions and 90 minutes between rides in FEI level competitions.
- 14.6 Rider may ride up into a scratching. However, they are not allowed to ride down.
- 14.7 The draw must be emailed to each competitor and judge at least 72 hours prior to the event to give ample time for competitors and judges to notify the organisers if there is a conflict of interest. The names of the judges for each competition should be listed on the draw.
- 14.8 Where there is a conflict of interest between the competitor and the judge it is the organiser's responsibility to arrange for another judge to judge the competition. The competitor is **not** able to ride HC nor should the competitor be required to scratch from the competition.
- 14.9 **Note:** Remember to place breaks for the day's draw for morning and afternoon tea (15 minutes after each 10 horses judged) and for lunch (3/4 to 1 hour). Judges and writers cannot keep going indefinitely, nor can scorers, and all need time to relax from their concentration. Additional breaks may be necessary if a large competition is being judged.

ORDER OF THE CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

- 14.10 OCs must schedule the conduct of competitions in such a way that the requirements of 14.4 and 14.5 in this manual can be adhered to.
- 14.11 FEI level competitions should not be conducted consecutively, especially when there are only a few (and often the same) competitors in each. Interspersing FEI level competitions with an EA level competition is one way to allow enough time for riders.

SECTION 15 – JUDGES SHEETS

- 15.1 Where paper scoring is used, one test sheet per judge per rider will be needed, with some spare copies for the judge/s e.g. for a Preliminary competition with 35 riders and two judges, you will need 78 copies of that test sheet.

Where paperless scoring is used it is prudent to supply the judge with a folder containing a small number of spare sheets in case of tablet failure. The judge should be provided with a paper copy of the test sheet to allow them to follow along with the test (this could be laminated to enable re-use)

Only the Official EA tests must be used for Official Competitive and Participant competitions. These can be downloaded from the website – www.equestrian.org.au and copied.

SECTION 16 – SCORERS, RUNNERS & POSTING RESULTS

SCORERS AND RUNNERS

- 16.1 Where paper scoring is used, it is recommended to have at least two or more people as scorers, per three arenas, one to score and one to check. Most groups use mature people with mathematical ability for this task. The scorers should have a table set aside, away from interruption. Competitors and any other people who are not part of the OC are to be banned from this area. Scorers must take particular care that results are consistently assigned to each judge.
- 16.2 The scoreboard should be updated on a regular basis. After every 10 horses it is ideal. Organisers must arrange to have the results displayed publicly with judges' names indicated in each column. The International Standard for the order of arranging the scores is **E H C M B**. This works even for 2 or 3 judges.
- 16.3 Where paperless scoring is used, it is recommended to have a single person available to keep an eye on Scoreboard to check judges are completing their tests or in case of any technical issues that might arise.
- 16.4 Scores are to be shown in **percentages only** (NOT total marks) and to three decimal places. Where possible, each judge's ranking should also be displayed.

Here is an example of how scores are to be displayed:

Bridle No	Horse	Rider	C	B	Errors	Score	Place
6524	Fred	J. Bloggs	65.758 (2)	66.667 (1)		66.212	1

- 16.4 Where paper scoring is used, at the conclusion of each competition all test sheets and the results for that particular competition must be presented to the Chief Judge of the competition for approval. If the Chief Judge of that particular competition is judging the results must be taken to that judge to sign off in between judging horses, alternatively, if a TD has been appointed the TD may be asked to approve the results. Once the results have been signed off by the Chief Judge a copy of the signed results sheets is to be posted immediately on the scoreboard. Once this is done the competitors are able to have access to their test sheet/s. In any case the competitors must have access to their test sheets within 30 minutes of the final results of that particular competition being posted. It is essential that the time of signing the final result by the Chief Judge be noted on the Official Result sheet when it is posted as this is the time from which the 30 minute period for any appeal being lodged begins. This is not necessary with paperless scoring, as the judge will be able to view and sign off on the class immediately using the tablet and results will be available to the riders through the scoring app.
- 16.5 Tests sheets are **confidential** between the judge and the rider.
- 16.6 Where the Chief Judge notices a marked difference in the scores between judges those test sheets, if possible, should be copied so that the judges may confer at a convenient time. The original test sheets should not be held and should be made available to the competitors as soon as the results have been approved by the Chief Judge.
- 16.7 Where paper scoring is used, a full copy of the final results be given to each judge at the end of the competition for the purposes of 'friendly' discussion with other Judges and also for dealing with rider questions, comments or complaints. Where possible a quiet area should be set aside by the organisers so that the judges and/or judges and riders can sit to have a confidential discussion about a particular competition/test.
- 16.8 Events using paper scoring will need to arrange runners to collect the test sheets from the judges and bring them to the scorers as soon as possible to assist them in getting the scores added and the results out as soon as possible. Runners should be aware that the test sheets are confidential and should not be viewed by either

runners or anyone else before they reach the scorers. One runner per two arenas is recommended. Runners must also be reminded of the correct protocol e.g. not interrupting the Judge or moving too close to the arena while a test is in progress.

- 16.9 Where paper scoring is used, the OC needs to make sure that the scoring team is capable of getting results out very quickly and correctly, especially at the end of the day so as to allow horses, riders and judges to leave for home as soon as possible. This is an area where paperless scoring has considerable advantage, as an external scorer is not required to process the papers after the judge has marked them.

SECTION 17 – GEAR CHECK

- 17.1 The organisers must appoint an Accredited EA Steward, who checks each competitor after he/she leaves the arena – but it must be the same for all competitors in the competition. This steward must be familiar with the EA Dressage Rules (Refer to Section 5 of the Rule Book) pertaining to dress and equipment used by the rider. The Gear Steward should meet with the Technical Delegate and Chief Steward (if appointed) before the event commences to receive any specific instructions. Approved representatives of the Steward (Marshals) may also be appointed to attend the gear check area to assist the appointed Steward. See Rule 6.4 (e)
- 17.2 It is the **responsibility** of the competitor to comply with the current EA Dressage Rules as far as saddlery and riding equipment is concerned.
- 17.3 The Gear Steward must wear gloves if they touch the horse. Gear Steward should never make any adjustments to tack. If adjustments to tack need to be made, then it is the responsibility of the competitor or groom to do this.
- 17.4 The Gear Steward can carry out a visual gear check before the test. The actual gear check takes place at the conclusion of the test before the rider leaves the competition area. If the steward finds any illegalities the chief judge presiding in the arena where the rider performed the test is to be notified immediately so the combination can be eliminated.
- 17.5 The Gear Steward has the authority to check or to instruct the competitor (or groom) to demonstrate to the Gear Steward that the bit is satisfactory, either by gently opening the horse's mouth or by asking the competitor (or groom) to remove the bridle. The Gear Steward must wear gloves if touching the horse's mouth.
- 17.6 Any query in relation to the legality of equipment must be referred to either the President of the Ground Jury or the Technical Delegate, if one has been appointed, for clarification.

General Information:

- Riders must follow instructions given by the Gear Steward/s.
- The gear check is conducted after the test. It is the riders's responsibility to present for the gear check after completion of the class and before they leave the competition area. Failure to do so results in elimination.
- Riders warming up must keep a minimum distance of 15 metres from arenas while tests are in progress.
- Allow riders entering the arena or riding around the arena prior to commencement of tests (i.e. at the start of the day or after a break) at consistent time intervals (e.g. 2 minutes). This is particularly important for riders immediately after breaks. Riders must not ride between arenas before their time. Delay entry to arena area if arenas are running **behind time**.
- **HORSE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS – Two** horse identification numbers **must** be clearly displayed - not just ONE. They must be displayed on either the saddle cloth or the bridle – one on each side so that they are clearly seen regardless of what direction the horse is going. Horse/Ponies should have ID numbers clearly displayed at all times on the grounds.
- Green stallion identification discs or number holders must be clearly displayed on both sides of the Stallion's head (attached to bridle or halter) or both sides of the saddle cloth on both sides of the breastplate: as per EA Stallion Safe Practices Policy. Horse and pony Identification numbers must be worn in addition to stallion discs, either as the green bridle identification number holder or the green stallion disc identification plus horse ID number. Green stallion identification discs or number holders must be worn by stallions at all times at an event.
- **FALL OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER** – Refer to section 3.23 of EA Rules. It is the decision of the OC's designated first aid official to assess whether the rider may continue to compete at the event without first getting a medical clearance from a medical practitioner. Where there is a suspected concussion from a knock to the body or head that transmits a force to the head then the Concussion Protocol must be followed. Remember if in doubt, sit out. In case of the horse, a vet or horse welfare officer will need to access the horse before it can continue.

SECTION 18 – RISK MANAGEMENT & BIO SECURITY

18.1 All affiliated clubs are encouraged to have a risk management plan in place.

The objective of a risk management plan is to assist a club in assessing and managing the risks associated with the management of equestrian activities.

A plan should be based on the general principles behind a club's 'duty of care' responsibilities to the equestrian community and the general public such as:

- provide a safe place for recreation/equestrian activities
- provide a safe system of rules
- provide safe and adequate equipment
- provide the participant with competent fellow participants, and
- provide adequate instructions and supervision for Equestrian

It is further recommended that a designated 'Responsible and/or Risk Management Officer' is appointed, within your Club's organisational structure, to ensure this information is made available to all Club Directors, Staff, Participants and Volunteers.

18.2 All affiliated clubs should implement a biosecurity plan. A template can be found at <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/member-resources/biosecurity>

SECTION 19 – ATTACHMENTS

Guidelines for Organising Committees (OCs) of Queensland State Dressage Championships

In late August/early September each year the Queensland Dressage Championships are conducted. Refer to Section 10 of EA Rules.

- The OC must consider existing DQ and EA sponsorship arrangements when approaching sponsors. Details of existing arrangement can be provided by DQ.
- Traditionally the Queensland Dressage Championships have been treated as a warm-up for the National Championships and rules for National Championships have been adopted where possible while complying with State Championship rules.
- DQ recommends that the tests for the State Championships be the same as those for the National Championships being held in the same year.
- DQ must approve the appointment of the judges, Technical Delegate and Chief Steward, although the Event Director may recommend who they would like to work with.
- Tests from Novice to Grand Prix must be offered. Preliminary competitions may be offered at the discretion of the OC.
- Amateur Owner Rider competitions should be included in the schedule.
- The OC may add other competitions to the program if they wish, e.g. if competitions are oversubscribed, *consolation competitions* for reserve listed combinations are sometimes put on, promotional competitions for young horses or Pony Dressage, Freestyle competitions. These additional competitions are at the discretion of the OC.
- The OC is responsible for setting the entry fees and the prize money/prizes. Rule 3.19 and 3.20 of the EA Rule Book apply regarding prize money/prizes.
- The **final schedule** to be presented to DQ in time for review at least one month before the schedule is to be released.
- The schedule will be posted on DQ web site
- Balloting for oversubscribed competitions must take place (Refer EA Section 10)
- **Normal EA Rules apply** including those that relate to State Championships events as per Section 10 in the EA rule book. (*one example is the whip rule for State Championships*)
- **Champions** are decided using the rules for National Championships (Refer to EA Rule 3.19 and Section 10)
- **Swabbing** for prohibited substances must take place as per the EA Horse Medication/Swabbing Policy. This is available for download from www.equestrian.org.au Random swabbing is normally undertaken. EQ Medication Control Officer appoints a swabbing steward for the event and also pays reasonable expenses in relation to this person. EQ will cover the cost of three swabbing kits and the analysis of such swabs. EQ is responsible for the cost of the attending veterinary surgeon in regard to swabbing.

OFFICIALS & APPOINTMENTS

- The **Technical Delegate** must be appointed at least 3 months prior to the event so that he/she can be of assistance to the OC in the lead up to the event.
- **Judges:** The OC is responsible for all judge's accommodation, meals, mileage allowance and honorarium etc. The OC must ensure that sufficient meal break times are taken into account when doing the draw. It is not a requirement to pay an honorarium to interstate and international judges however airport parking and mileage from their home to the airport is usually covered.
- **On call Veterinarian:** It is advisable to have a list of on-call Equine Veterinarians with the ability to attend to emergencies if they occur in the competitors information packs.

- An experienced **Chief Steward** must be appointed at least 3 months prior to the event so that he/she can be of assistance to the OC in recruiting additional stewards and planning a stewards' roster around competitions and arena familiarisation times.
- The Chief Steward is responsible for assembling a stewarding team of EA/FEI Stewards who are responsible for gear check, and management of the warm-up areas and the stabling/camping areas.

FACILITIES

Arenas

- Three to four sand or sand/fibre arenas are required, one of which is to be used as a warm-up arena. The total number of arenas is dependent on the competition program offered.
- Sand or sand/fibre arenas should be offered to all competitions from Novice to Grand Prix. Grass arenas for the lower level competitions may be an option provided that they are level, the going is good and the arenas are not hard.
- It is recommended that an expert or someone who has experience with arenas be asked for an opinion before OCs make final arrangements for the arenas. A trial competition with at least one of the proposed Championships arenas being used is recommended so that any problems can be rectified before the Championships.

Stables

- Approximately 100-140 stables will be required if OCs expect to stable all competitors on the grounds. However, a minimum of at least 75 must be available on the grounds and preference should be given to competitors travelling long distances, those staying for longer periods and for FEI horses and stallions. Stables can be either permanent or temporary stables. ALL stables must be safe and meet the required standard. Additional day stalls are an asset if available. All competitors entered must be offered some form of stabling whether on or off the grounds.
- A list of stabling in the local area should be made available to competitors.

OTHER

- Camping facilities required on the grounds including, access to power and water
- Amenities such as showers and toilets must be provided at the venue
- Truck/float parking areas must be provided
- Suitable catering facilities must be supplied for competitors and spectators and judges