

# **FEI™ PARA EQUESTRIAN**

**COMPENSATING AIDS EXPLAINED**  
**Sharyn Gregory and Juliet Whatley**



THE NATURAL AIDS TO HORSEMANSHIP ARE THE HANDS, THE LEGS, THE BODY  
& THE VOICE —

# Definition (FEI Para Dressage Rules 2019)

- **2.1.1 Standard compensating aids** are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in the FEI Dressage Rules, which may be used by the athletes **across all functional profiles**. Standard compensating Aids are allowed to be used by **all Athletes** and **do not need to be noted on the FEI Masterlist**.
- **2.1.2 Profile-specific compensating aids** are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery, which may be used **by nominated profiles** and **must be noted on the FEI Masterlist** following Classification evaluation. These are listed in the summary table of Annex IX.
- **2.1.3 Non Standard compensating aids** are aids, other than those above, required by **an individual athlete** and not described specifically in these rules. The aid is **prescribed specifically for the athlete** to enable them to ride the horse without providing an advantage over other athletes within the same Profile or Grade. These aids may include modifications to a **Standard or Profile-specific Compensating aid**, or a piece of **non-Standard equipment custom made for the athlete**.

# Compensating Aids - responsibility

- 2.1.4 Subject to the noted provisions, all saddlery and special equipment used in competition shall correspond to that allowed under FEI Dressage Rules. **It is the responsibility of the Athlete** to ensure that all special equipment/compensating aids they use in competition meet the requirements under the Para Dressage rules, and that any [*standard or*] profile-specific compensating aids used are noted for that Athlete on the FEI Classification Master List.

# How all compensating aids are evaluated

- Enables the athlete to ride a horse in dressage
- Should only be used if required, thereby athletes should compete with as few aids as possible
- Must allow the athlete to compete safely and is safe for the horse and others around the athlete



# How all compensating aids are evaluated

- Must be universally available to all those who require it (cost and availability can be factors here)
- Needs to be fair and thereby regulated by the FEI. The aid should not provide an advantage over another athlete within the Profile or within the Grade
- Should not generate performance itself e.g use of robotics- that is up to the athlete (and the horse

# Standard Compensating Aids

- Salute with head only
- Gloves
- Saddle-any type
- Soft hand hold
- Deep saddle
- Breast plate and/or neck strap
- Safety vest (including inflatable)
- Sitting or rising trot
- 1 whip
- Elastic bands on stirrups
- Enclosed stirrups
- Magnetic stirrups
- Spurs
- Split rein on double bridle
- Elastic insert in reins

# Profile (or impairment) – specific aids





# Profile (or impairment) – specific aids

COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE																			
Profile-Specific Compensating Aids																			
Profile	Grade	Voice	Raised pommel or cantle	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Loop reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No stirrups	Electronic communication device	Use of sign language	Callers	Beacon beeper	Commander	
1-6	I	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
7	I	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
8	III	•		•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
9	II	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
10a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•						
11a/b	II/III	•		•	•	•					•	•	•						
12a/b	I	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
13	I	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
14	III	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
15	IV			•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
16	V				•	•			•										
17a	III	•		•	•	•					•	•	•						
17b	IV			•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
18a	III	•		•	•	•					•	•	•						
18b	IV			•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
19a	IV			•	•	•					•	•	•						
19b	V			•	•	•					•	•	•						
20	V				•	•													
21	IV				•	•	•	•	•							•			
22	V				•	•		•	•										
23	V				•	•			•										
24	V				•	•			•										
25	IV				•	•		•	•										
26a	IV				•	•		•	•		•								
26b	V				•	•		•	•										
27	II	•		•	•	•			•				•						
28	IV			•	•	•													
31a/b/32	II/III	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
36/37a	IV				•	•								•				•	
38	N/A													•	•				
39	N/A																		
On Master List		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

As determined through the Classification process and supporting medical documentation

**Standard Compensating Aids**  
 \*Not to be listed on the FEI Classification Master List  
 Salute with head only  
 Sitting or rising trot  
 Gloves  
 Spurs  
 Saddle-any type  
 Soft hand hold  
 Deep saddle  
 Elastic bands on stirrups  
 Enclosed stirrups  
 Magnetic stirrups  
 1 whip  
 Breast plate and/or neck strap  
 Split rein on double bridle  
 Elastic inserts in reins  
 Safety vest (including inflatable)

**Non-Standard Compensating Aids.**  
 These are aids or equipment not described in the table on the left.  
 The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid approved by the FEI Compensating Aids Panel. See application form on FEI website.  
 \*Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List once approved.

# Changes to Profile-specific aids

Preferred option - Seek approval prior to attending the competition through the FEI and FEI Classification Working Group

Approval by the FEI Classification Panel at the competition prior to riding first test

# FEI Para Dressage ruling

- Article 8427 2.5.1 Any strapping used, such as Velcro, leather or elastic must allow the athlete to fall free from the horse.
- Article 8427 2.1.3.2 Refers to those athletes who are being classified for the first time at their first competition.

# The FEI Compensating Aids Panel (CAP)

The CAP consists of:

A Para Dressage Judge

A Classifier

A Para Steward

All need to agree on the request made

# Compensating aids requested – decision made

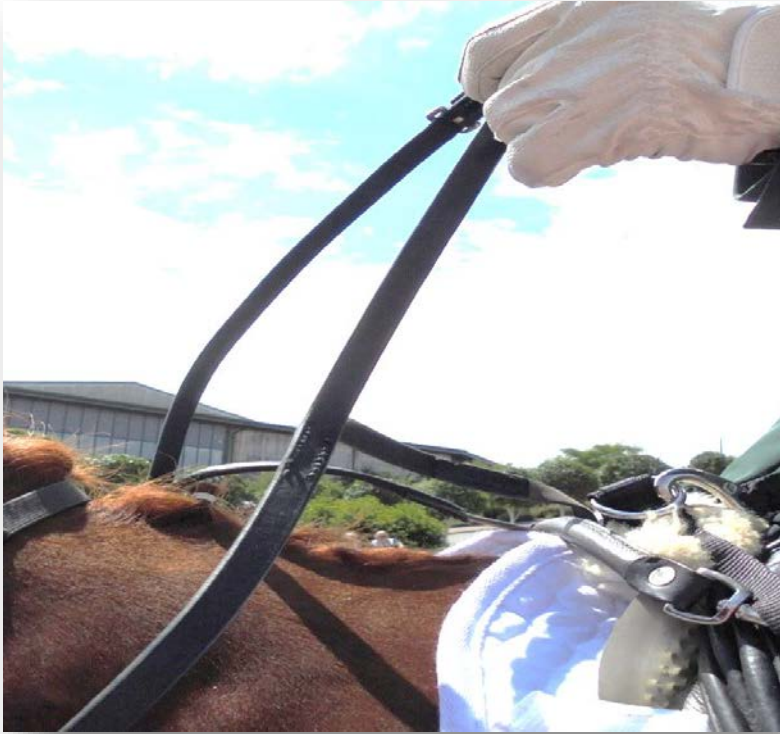


# Compensating aids requested – decision made

- Article 8428 1.1.2

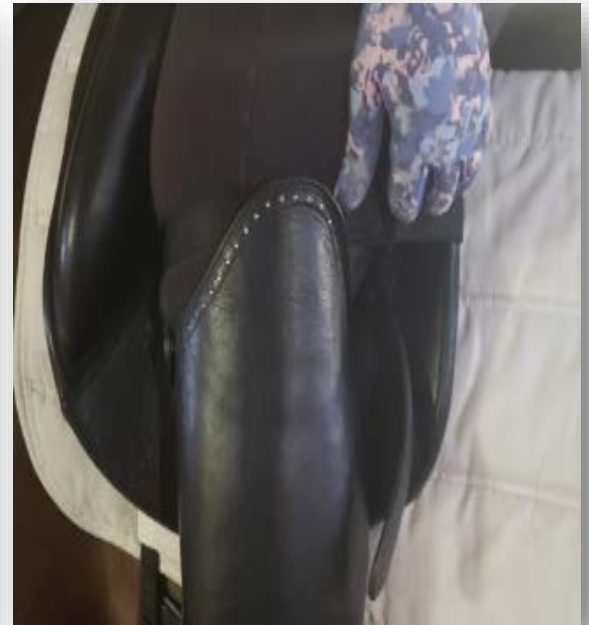


# Compensating aids requested – decision made



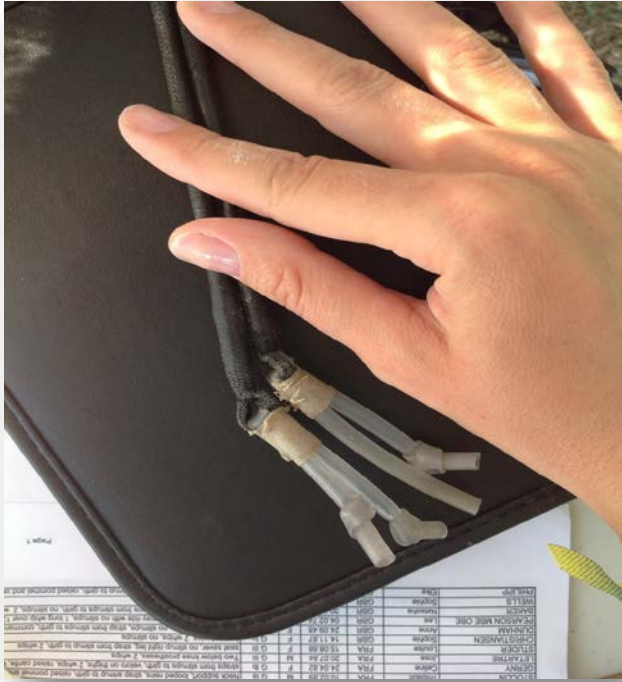


# Compensating aids seen at competition – non standard and not on the Master List





# Compensating aids seen at competition – non standard and not on the Master List



# Issues identified at competitions

- Athletes (or their support personnel) not checking their aids on the FEI Classification Master List prior to coming to the competition
- Aids not updated/correctly listed on the FEI Classification Master List
- Athletes changing/creating aids that may/may not be allowed
- Velcro measurements
- Handhold measurements
- Whip length

# Questions

