

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF  
DRESSAGE RULES 2024**

16 October 2024

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Dressage Rules together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 2 sections as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024;](#)  
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Ronan Murphy

Dressage Director

**A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024**

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
408 SCHEDULING POSSIBILITIES – YOUTH EVENTS
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Correction of inconsistency.
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>3.2. The <b>Intermediate II-Test</b>. Open to all Athletes.</p> <p>3.3. The <b>Grand Prix 16-25-Test</b>. This Competition is either open to all Athletes, or if scheduled as a second Competition, it is open to all Athletes who completed the Intermediate II Competition. If this test is scheduled as a Final, it is limited to six (6) (minimum) to eighteen (18) (maximum including ties for 18<sup>th</sup> place) best Athlete/Horse combinations who qualified in the Intermediate II.</p> <p>3.4. <b>Grand Prix Freestyle-Test</b>. This Competition is limited to the six (6) (minimum) to eighteen (18) (maximum including ties for 18<sup>th</sup> place) best Athlete/Horse combinations who qualified in the Grand Prix 16-25 Competition. All Combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% in the qualification Competition. Athletes may start one (1) Horse.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
None
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
N/A
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)									
FEI									
Article Number – Article Name									
410 SCHEDULING POSSIBILITIES - COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG HORSES									
Explanation for Proposed Change									
Clarification.									
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024									
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Championship: Refer to the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses Rules published on the FEI Website.</li> <li>2. CDIYH Competition Formats: <table border="1" data-bbox="300 763 1422 999"> <thead> <tr> <th>Competition 1</th> <th>Competition 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Preliminary Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses</td> <td>Final Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preliminary Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses</td> <td>Final Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preliminary Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses</td> <td>Final Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </li> </ol>		Competition 1	Competition 2	Preliminary Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses	Preliminary Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses	Preliminary Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses
Competition 1	Competition 2								
Preliminary Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for five (5)-year old Horses								
Preliminary Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for six (6)-year old Horses								
Preliminary Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses	Final Dressage Test for seven (7)-year old Horses								
<p><u>2.1. Both competitions at each age level are open to all Athlete/Horse combinations.</u></p>									
Comments Received by 21 August 2024									
None									
FEI Feedback									
N/A									
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024									
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.									

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)	
FEI	
Article Number – Article Name	
417.3.3, 5 and 6 DRAW FOR STARTING ORDER	
Explanation for Proposed Change	
<p>3.3 - Clarification            5 and 6 - Correction, obsolete. Art 417.3.3 covers all possibilities regardless whether open to 15 or 18 combinations.</p>	
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024	
3.3.	<p>The starting order for all Competitions for which Athletes have had to qualify by competing in an earlier Competition, shall be determined by way of a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of the results of the earlier Competition. <u>The highest ranked Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.</u> In case of ties within one (1) starting group, the combinations that are tied shall be drawn in the same group and numbers adjusted accordingly.</p>
<del>5.</del>	<p><del><b>Grand Prix Special:</b></del></p> <p><del>At all CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5* Events there will be a draw in four (4) groups for the order of starting in the Grand Prix Special. A draw first within the group of Athletes placed 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in the qualifying GP, then a second draw within the group of Athletes placed 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and then a third draw within the group of Athletes placed 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and a last draw within the group of Athletes placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> i.e. the five (5) best Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.</del></p>
<del>6.</del>	<p><del><b>Freestyle:</b></del></p> <p><del>At all CDI events there will be a draw in four (4) groups for the order of starting in the Freestyle. A draw first within the group of Athletes placed 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in the qualifying Competition, then a second draw within the group of Athletes placed 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and then a third draw within the group of Athletes placed 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and a last draw within the group of Athletes placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> i.e. the five (5) best Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.</del></p>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024	
<p><u>GBR NF</u> would appreciate further clarification on the proposed wording. The highest ranked athlete/horse combination will start last. Is this applicable to athletes within one group or does it pertain to the overall draw? Additionally, how will ties be addressed?</p> <p>Drawing from recent experiences at the Olympic Games, would it be better to utilise individual athlete rankings instead of athlete/horse combinations, particularly from a welfare perspective?</p> <p>Riders may compete multiple horses over the course of the year, which can be used as the basis to judge merit, whereas ranking the combination potentially encourages horses to be competed more frequently to improve their standing, which may not be in the best interest of the individual horse.</p>	

**FEI Feedback**

The DTC believes the GBR NF might be confusing this Dressage rules paragraph with the Olympic Regulations. Here deleting points 5 and 6, which basically stated the same thing, and replacing them with the additional sentence "The highest ranked Athlete/Horse combinations will start last." covers both possibilities of having 15 or 18 combinations (draw in reverse order of results from the earlier Competition) in the GPS/GPFS.

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**

As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
424.5.1 Reasons for Elimination - Lameness
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Horse welfare.
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
5.1. Lameness.  In a case of marked lameness, the Judge at C informs the Athlete that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. <u>In competitions that are not qualifying for a next test, the Horse needs to pass a re-inspection by the FEI Veterinarian in order to be able to start the next test (i.e. normally the test that takes place the day after). day.</u>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
None
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
N/A
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
USA NF
Article Number – Article Name
Chapter IV Article 429.6.4 and Chapter V Article 433.4
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p><b><u>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc</u></b></p> <p>Chapter V Article 433.4 states the following: Ponies are allowed in CDIChs taking place outside Western Europe (does not apply to FEI Dressage Continental Championships for Children).</p> <p>Chapter IV Article 429.6.4: The FEI Children Championship is open to Horses which have not competed in a Grand Prix for Seniors during the current year. Ponies are not allowed in FEI Children Championships.</p> <p>We propose that language be added to Article 429.6.4 permitting Ponies to compete in FEI Children Championships in North America. Allowing an FEI North American Children Championship to be open to horses &amp; ponies would make the rule more consistent with Article 429.6.3 and Article 433.4 which allow for CDI Children events to be open to ponies outside of Western Europe.</p> <p>The USA NF would like to add an FEI Dressage Continental Championship for Children to the North American Championships for Juniors, Young Riders and U25 riders. It is felt that the 2024 championship may not have needed to be cancelled had ponies been permitted at the Championship. Many North American athletes would be interested in the Continental Championship but would be ineligible under the current rules since most of those athletes ride ponies. Further, North America does not host an FEI Dressage Continental Championship for the Ponies so there is not another opportunity for those athletes riding ponies to participate in an FEI Dressage Continental Championship. Adding exceptions to both Article 429.6.4 and Article 433.4 would allow the North American Championships to include these riders.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Chapter IV Article 429.6.4 The FEI Children Championship is open to Horses which have not competed in a Grand Prix for Seniors during the current year. Ponies are not allowed in FEI Children Championships <u>except in North America</u>.</p> <p>Chapter V Article 433.4 Children’s events (CDICh): Ponies are allowed in CDIChs taking place outside Western Europe (does not apply to FEI Dressage Continental Championships for Children, <u>except in North America</u>).</p>
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<p>The DTC understands the importance of the correction of this inconsistency for the development of the sport for Youth in North America. The wording proposed is slightly modified, to permit for this development worldwide.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Chapter IV Article 429.6.4 The FEI Children Championship is open to Horses which have not competed in a Grand Prix for Seniors during the current year. Ponies are not allowed in FEI Children Championships <u>in Western Europe</u>.</p> <p>Chapter V Article 433.4 Children’s events (CDICh): Ponies are allowed in CDIChs taking place outside Western</p>

Europe (does not apply to FEI Dressage Continental Championships for Children [in Western Europe](#).)

**Comments Received by 21 August 2024**

GBR NF: We fully understand the rationale for not allowing ponies at the Ch European Championships; however, for domestic CDIs we feel allowing young riders to compete on ponies in these classes is an excellent development opportunity for up-and-coming combinations and valuable experience for future pony riders and exposing less experienced ponies to an international competition environment.

In the UK, we have a very small group of these athletes, and it is vital for our Organisers to have support to host these classes, with restrictions in place, in order to aid the development of the sport. Not allowing ponies would reduce the invaluable competition experience that young athletes are able to obtain and have the potential to make classes financially unviable for the Organiser.

As the Ch tests are fundamentally based on rider skills, and designed to develop a combination, we therefore request a review of the current ruling to exclude ponies from domestic CDIs and allow the opportunity to obtain this experience, without gaining ranking points. In the event of a 'true' Ch combination at a CDI, the result should default to the higher placing above a pony combination.

**FEI Feedback**

The DTC understands the concern of the GBR NF and the wish to enable Athletes who age-wise fall into the Children category to also be able to compete in CDI-Ch events on Ponies. However, the rule modification was proposed only concerning Championships, and the new proposal of the GBR NF could only be reviewed and considered [as part of](#) a full rules revision.

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**

As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.



<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
NOR NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
431.4 Dress
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p><b><u>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc</u></b>  <b><u>New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.</u></b></p> <p><b>Measuring of the spurs</b>  According to Article 431.4.1 is states:  <i>"In Children and Pony Competitions, spurs are optional, but if used, only blunt metal spurs are allowed. <b>The shank may not be longer than three point five centimetres (3,5 cm).</b> »</i></p> <p>This means that the way of measuring the spurs is no longer measured from the boot. This change does not seem to have been harmonised with the other disciplines. For instance, in the Eventing Rules Article 538.1.3.a) it states the following:</p> <p>a) General - Spurs are optional for all three Tests. Spurs capable of wounding a Horse are forbidden. Spurs must be of smooth material (metal or plastic). If there is a shank it must not be more than four centimetres long (<b>the overall shank must be measured from the boot to the end of the spur</b>) and must point only towards the rear.</p> <p>By measuring only the shank, some may be attempted to expand the arm of the spurs, in order to make it longer than the actual shank.  Regarding the Swan neck spurs, how should these be measured?</p> <p>We would appreciate that the way of measuring spurs could be harmonized between the disciplines.</p> <p>Harmonise between disciplines.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
No change to this rule, as the current wording removes any previous ambiguity regarding the measuring of spurs. For the Swan neck spurs, the measurement follows the shank.
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>GER NF</u>: We agree with the NOR NF that the way how the length of a spur is measured must be the same across all disciplines. While in Dressage (Pony and Children) only the shank is measured, in Eventing (general) and Jumping (Pony and Children) the overall shank is measured from the boot to the end resp. tip of the spur. Such inconsistency in the discipline rules is not comprehensible. The rules need to be aligned in this respect. In our NF (national competitions), we measure the length of the spur from the boot to the end of the spur.</p> <p><u>IDTC</u>: We agree with the NOR NF that the way how the length of a spur is measured must be the same across all disciplines. The rules need to be aligned in this respect. We prefer to have the measurement taken from the boot to the end of the spur.</p>

**FEI Feedback**

The DTC has re-discussed this topic following the feedback received, and agrees that the measurement of spurs should be from the boot (i.e. from the inside of the spur where it touches the boot) to the tip of the shank.

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**

- 4.1. In Children and Pony Competitions, spurs are optional, but if used, only blunt metal spurs are allowed. The shank may not be longer than three point five centimetres (3,5 cm) **measured from the boot to the tip**. Spurs with rowels are not allowed.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
ARG NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Art 431.5 Dress
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>1. Urgent repair for Athlete safety: We propose to allow the use of only one earphone in the warm up or in the training arena.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited at FEI Dressage Competitions whilst competing, and such usage is penalised by elimination. <u>Use of one (1) eEarphones</u> or similar devices <del>are-is</del> however permitted during training and warm-up.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>The DTC agreed with this proposal. It is important for Athlete safety that they can also hear their environment.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited at FEI Dressage Competitions whilst competing, and such usage is penalised by elimination. <u>Use of one (1) eEarphones</u> or similar devices <del>are-is</del> however permitted during training and warm-up.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
None
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
N/A
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
434.2.1.5 Saddlery - Equipment
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
This is covered in Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations.
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p><del>2.1.5. At any level of Competition, a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to the Horse and must be checked as per the Stewards Manual noseband protocol.</del></p> <p><u>2.1.5 Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband.</u></p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>GBR NF</u>: We understand that a rule to govern the use of the new noseband measuring device will be required, but the protocol needs to be published and agreed in advance before this rule is approved.</p> <p><u>USA NF</u>: Given that there will very little time, if any, for athletes, grooms, and officials to become accustomed to the new noseband tightness device, we propose that an implementation period be considered where the warning system can be used opposed to an immediate yellow card for the first quarter of 2025. This will give time for all to become accustomed to using the new device and provide the officials the option to use a warning system opposed to an official yellow card if there is an unintended tightening of the noseband.</p> <p><u>Proposed wording</u>: FEI to determine wording for phased implementation period utilizing the warning system.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
The DTC confirms that the protocol will be published before the rule comes into force. Initially testing will be introduced at higher level events <u>initially</u> in order to accustom everyone to the testing and also allow time to train the Officials.
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
441 Ground Jury
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Correction of inconsistency</p> <p>FEI DRESSAGE NATIONS CUP™ RULES 2.6 Judges For the CDIO-NC qualifier event, there must be five (5) judges selected from the FEI list of L4 and L3 judges. Minimum four (4) judges must be of different nationalities and minimum two judges have to be L4. One L2 judge may be exceptionally selected with previous approval of the FEI.</p> <p>DRESSAGE RULES ARTICLE 441 GROUND JURY 9.6. For CDIOs (including NC), the President and the other members of the Ground Jury are appointed by the OC, in agreement with the FEI, from the FEI lists of L4 and L3 Judges. 9.6.1. At CDIOs at least three (3) out of five (5) Ground Jury members have to be of foreign nationality and of different nationalities.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>Current text Art 441:</p> <p>9.6. For CDIOs (including NC), the President and the other members of the Ground Jury are appointed by the OC, in agreement with the FEI, from the FEI lists of L4 and L3 Judges.</p> <p>9.6.1. At CDIOs <u>(including NC)</u> at least three (3) out of five (5) Ground Jury members have to be of foreign nationality and of different nationalities.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
None
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
N/A
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
441.2 Ground Jury for FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final.
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Other scenarios approved by the Board.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Ground Jury members for the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final would be reduced from seven (7) to five (5) members in an effort to reduce organising costs.</p> <p>Article 441.2:</p> <p>At Olympic Games and FEI Dressage Championships for Seniors at Grand Prix level and the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, the FEI will appoint a Ground Jury consisting of seven (7) members and one (1) reserve.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>At Olympic Games and FEI Dressage Championships for Seniors at Grand Prix level the FEI will appoint a Ground Jury consisting of seven (7) members and one (1) reserve.</p> <p>At the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, the FEI will appoint a Ground Jury consisting of <del>seven (7)</del><u>five (5)</u> members and one (1) reserve.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>GBR NF</u>: Given the status of the World Cup Final, it would be preferable to retain seven Ground Jury Members.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
<p>With the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final having only 18 combinations participating and a full JSP panel present, this is an issue of cost. There is no sponsor for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ currently; furthermore, the Ground Jury consists of mostly of Level 4 Judges apart from one very experienced Level 3 Judge.</p>
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
<p>As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.</p>

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
441.9.4 Ground Jury for FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final.
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Other scenarios approved by the Board.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Ground Jury members for the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final would be reduced from seven (7) to five (5) members in an effort to reduce organising costs.</p> <p>Article 441.9.4:</p> <p>For FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final, the President and the other six (6) members are appointed by the FEI with the cooperation of the Dressage Technical Committee from the list of L4 and L3 Judges. Minimum six (6) L4 Judges and one (1) L3 Judge. At least six (6) foreign Judges of different nationalities shall be appointed. Minimum one (1) L3 Judge must be appointed.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>For FEI World Cup™ Dressage Finals, the President and the other <del>six (6)</del>four (4) members are appointed by the FEI with the cooperation of the Dressage Technical Committee from the list of L4 and L3 Judges. Minimum <del>six (6)</del>four (4) L4 Judges and one (1) L3 Judge. At least <del>six (6)</del>four (4) foreign Judges of different nationalities shall be appointed. Minimum one (1) L3 Judge must be appointed.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>GBR NF</u>: Given the status of the World Cup Final, it would be preferable to retain seven Ground Jury Members.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
<p>As per the previous point. With the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final having only 18 combinations participating and a full JSP panel present, this is an issue of cost. There is no sponsor for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ currently; furthermore, the Ground Jury consists of mostly of Level 4 Judges apart from one very experienced Level 3 Judge.</p>
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
<p>As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.</p>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)		
FEI		
Article Number – Article Name		
ANNEX 5 Sanctions Summary		
Explanation for Proposed Change		
Correction		
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024		
424	For Young Horses tests, Children, Pony and Junior tests, the deduction for the first error is zero point five percentage points (0.5%) from the total score, for the second error one percentage point (1%) and for the third error, Elimination.	First error: zero point five (0.5%) percentage points from the total score Second error: <u>one percentage point (1%) and for the third error,</u> Elimination
Comments Received by 21 August 2024		
None		
FEI Feedback		
N/A		
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024		
As per original wording proposed on 26 June 2024.		



## B. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE RULES REVISION

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
SWE NF, NED NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Article 401.7, Categories of International Dressage Events
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p><b><u>Urgent repairs.</u></b></p> <p>Given the current circumstances regarding the scrutiny and questioning of the Dressage Sport. We ask the FEI to re-evaluate it's decision that it's mandatory from level CDI 3* and CDIO3* and higher to ride with a double bridle.</p> <p>We think it is in the best interest for the Dressage sport to make it optional and allow riders to use a snaffle if they deem this in their best interest as a combination.</p> <p>Proposed wording: A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in all categories except for CDIP and CDICH Events where snaffle bridle is compulsory.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>No change.</p> <p>As it was communicated last year, the FEI DTC has the unanimous understanding that the use of snaffle or double bridle is a technical (sport) matter and not a matter of wellbeing/welfare.</p> <p>We understand the concerns regarding the social (media) perception, but on this topic, it is our understanding that the perception and reality are not aligned. Despite the amount of relevant work carried out until now, conclusive and/or unquestionable evidence has not been brought to the DTC that allow us to reach to a different conclusion.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that from a technical perspective the DTC is willing and available to be part of a round table, that includes a multidisciplinary team of experts from all stakeholders, to discuss the correct fitting and possible modernising of the double bridle. As stated, based on many years of experience, the data currently at hand, and the results achieved, the DTC remains of the opinion that using the double bridle at top sport level is not a welfare issue.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>GER NF, IDRC, IDTC</u>: We do not share the opinion that using a double bridle is a matter of Horse Welfare and that a decision is required urgently. We do support the step to have a round table discussion. However, a prerequisite for coming to a reasonable conclusion is to have results of significantly more meaningful scientific studies on the subject, for example on what a bit does in a horse's mouth.</p> <p><u>SWE NF</u>: We experienced amazing rides during the Olympics. Despite this, we also heard about pictures taken during the competition that showed blue tongues. As the FEI presented this news, both the media and the public reacted strongly.</p> <p>Obviously, it is practically impossible for Athletes and Officials to notice if a horse's tongue turns blue during the competition, which makes it a challenge to do something about it in the moment. Therefor we must avoid such situations as much as we can.</p> <p>Considering this, we are once again asking the FEI to allow Athletes to ride on snaffle bridle, as we strongly believe it is in the best interest for the dressage sport.</p>

We also believe that making the double bridle optional and instead make it possible to adapt the equipment to each horse's psychological and physical needs, is crucial to secure the public's acceptance of the sport.

The outside world's reactions to what happened during the Olympics were very bad for the sport of dressage and we must do what we can to deserve and get their trust.

Proposed wording:

A snaffle bridle or a double bridle is allowed in all categories except for CDIP and CDICH events where snaffle bridles are compulsory.

#### **FEI Feedback**

No change.

As it was communicated last year, the FEI DTC has the unanimous understanding that the use of snaffle or double bridle is a technical (sport) matter and not a matter of wellbeing/welfare.

We understand the concerns regarding the social (media) perception, but on this topic, it is our understanding that the perception and reality are not aligned. Despite the amount of relevant work carried out until now, conclusive and/or unquestionable evidence has not been brought to the DTC that allow us to reach to a different conclusion.

However, it should be noted that from a technical perspective the DTC is willing and available to be part of a round table, that includes a multidisciplinary team of experts from all stakeholders, to discuss the correct fitting and possible modernising of the double bridle. As stated, based on many years of experience, the data currently at hand, and the results achieved, the DTC remains of the opinion that using the double bridle at top sport level is not a welfare issue.

The DTC suggests that this topic could be further evaluated during the 2025 Season by encouraging Organisers to include a special restricted class for Athletes who wish to use the Snaffle bridle in Grand Prix up to CDI 3\* Level. Data from these studies would assist in the future assessment of the topic.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
DO
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
414.3 Entry Fee
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Because of the officials per diem remuneration increase, the costs for event organisers are getting too high. The Dressage Organisers ask to accept higher entry fee for a CDI4*, an increase from CHF 525 to CHF 540, and for a CDI5* an increase from CHF 600 to CHF 625.</p> <p>CDI4*/CDIO4* Max. 540 CHF          CDI5*/CDIO5* Max. 625 CHF</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>No change.</p> <p>The proposed increase in the Entry Fees is supported by the Dressage Technical Committee and the IDRC (International Dressage Riders Club). The FEI Board is also supportive of this proposal; however, this proposal does not meet the criteria for a Rule change in 2025 and will be considered at the next full Revision of the Dressage Rules.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
None
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
N/A

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
IDOC
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Art 422.4 Paperless Judging
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Point 4 defines that access to the Athletes’ electronic judges’ sheets is strictly personal. Recent events (e.g. FEI Dressage World Cup Amsterdam) lead to disastrous allegation of welfare of the Horses not being of the highest importance to Athletes and Judges which makes an urgent repair under criteria 1 necessary.</p> <p>If the remarks of judges would have been published, this situation would not have come up. IDOC deem it important for the transparency of the sport, the understanding of the public and our social license to publish these remarks as soon as competitions are finished.</p> <p>Proposed wording:          4. The electronic judges’ sheets will be made available <del>to the Athletes in an electronic format via the FEI platform</del> after the Competition. <del>The access to the Athletes’ electronic judges’ sheets is strictly personal.</del></p>

**Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024**

No change for 2025.

The DTC is in principle, supportive of this proposal as an initiative which may increase transparency and understanding of the sport, however, we believe that to make this possible, this requires a clear and unequivocal agreement from all stakeholders. The DTC suggests that there should first be consultation with the Athletes (IDRC) and Trainers (IDTC) and following that consultation process, the proposal could be trialled on a pilot basis at selected events. It is also the view of the DTC that any future Rule change would only be introduced at senior level for CDI3\* and above.

No change to the existing Rule until further consideration following the consultation and trial process as set out above. The IDRC and the IDTC have welcomed the proposal for further consultation prior to a final Rule change being proposed.

**Comments Received by 21 August 2024**

EEF: Further discussion among the stakeholders are appreciated and clear agreement has to be reached. There are good arguments for both sides but in the current environment publishing of the remarks can be fuel to the fire.

Proposed wording:

4. The electronic judges' sheets will be made available to the Athletes in an electronic format via the FEI platform after the Competition. The access to the Athletes' electronic judges' sheets is strictly personal.

GBR NF would agree with the principle that there should be a comprehensive consultation prior to this proposal being considered.

It is important to reflect upon all the possible consequences of such an action and the additional training that may be required where English is not the first language. Also relevant to discussions is the potential that, under the proposal, the sheets may be read in isolation rather than as an observation of a performance.

The privacy and confidentiality of individual score sheets have always been maintained at all levels and there is a danger that comments could be taken out of context. We would therefore support the FEI in rejecting this.

GER NF, IDRC: We are not in favour of publishing the judges' comments. Publication would only lead to the comments becoming more and more general and less meaningful.

IDOC: The IDOC Executive Board discussed the matter and re-evaluated its position. The Board understands it should not be open to the public for the moment. It is a rider's right to have it private. IDOC, therefore, asks for the removal of the proposal. IDOC is open to discuss the matter with other stakeholders.

IDTC: We are not in favour of publishing the judges' comments. This could encourage unhelpful controversy and may lead to less meaningful remarks.

**FEI Feedback**

According to the feedback received, all Stakeholders now agree that the Judges' comments/remarks should not be published for the time being. Therefore, there will be no change to this Article.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
EEF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Art 423.9 Marking
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>1. Urgent repair for horse welfare.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Two Collective Marks: After the Athlete has finished their performance, two (2) collective marks</p> <p>GENERAL IMPRESSION in accordance with horse welfare will be introduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scale of training Rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection</li> <li>2. Harmony of rider and horse Position, effectiveness and sensitivity of rider’s aids</li> </ol> <p>Both with a coefficient 2</p> <p>Firewalls for both marks have to be developed</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>No change.</p> <p>No change to the number of collective marks. This topic was addressed in 2018 by the Dressage Judging Working Group (Task Force) supported by the Nottingham Trent University, and it was concluded that collective marks exacerbate the cumulative impact on cognitive load. The test ends with the final halt and salute and all aspects are being judged continuously as the test takes place.</p> <p>The DTC proposes a further consultation with all stakeholder groups to review the phrasing of the General Impression mark. This Rule Change proposal does not meet the criteria for ‘urgent repair for welfare of the horse’ and should be instead considered as part of the next full rule revision process.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>EEF</u>: 1. Urgent repair for horse welfare. We strongly believe this has become more and more important in the past months. The Olympic Games in Paris have clearly shown the absolute necessity of change in this area and this can be part of it. More ideas which have been brought recently have to be discussed and a consultation process is very much welcomed. Proposed Wording: Two Collective Marks: After the Athlete has finished their performance, two (2) collective marks GENERAL IMPRESSION in accordance with horse welfare will be introduced: 1. Scale of training Rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection 2. Harmony of rider and horse Position, effectiveness and sensitivity of rider’s aids Both with a coefficient 2. Firewalls for both marks have to be developed.</p> <p><u>GER NE, IDRC</u>: With their evaluation, the Judge also gives the Athlete and the Trainer recommendations for the further education and training. It is not enough to only judge the technical execution of the test. It is often said that the Judge should also recognise and</p>

judge all the principles of Dressage riding, but the reality is often somewhat different. If there are two separate collective marks, one for the rider and one for the horse or its training status, the Judge is reminded to evaluate the principles of Dressage riding at the end of each test. Adding the collective mark for the horse is an important step to ensure that the basic criteria, our principles of riding, remain paramount in judging the performance of a rider/horse combination. By the final, explicit assessment of the training status of Athlete and Horse, an important contribution is made to the Welfare of the Horse.

**FEI Feedback**

The DTC remains with its position from 26 June, while stressing that the Judges need to consider these factors in each movement mark, rather than having to try to recall the whole test afterwards in order to award this additional mark. This will be further discussed at the next Level 4 Dressage Judges' meeting.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
SWE NF
Article Number – Article Name
GR 2024 Art 142.1-142.2 – Abuse of Horse DR 2024 Art 424.5.6.1-424.5.6.4 – Bleeding DR 2024 Art 438 – Abuse of Horse JR 2024 Art 241.3.30-241.3.31 – Eliminations JR 2024 Art 242.3-242.3.1 – Disqualifications JR 2024 Art 243.1-243-2.3 – Abuse of Horse ER 2024 Art 526.1-526.4 – Abuse of Horse; Definition, Warnings and Penalties, Use of the Whip, Blood on Horses
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p><b><u>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc</u></b></p> <p>There are obvious differences in the Rules regarding Abuse of Horse, Blood on the Horse and penalties between the Olympic disciplines Dressage, Jumping and Eventing, as well as in the General Regulations. The above-mentioned Rules are dealing with the same issue, but in different ways.</p> <p>The handling of blood on the flank is also different between the disciplines. In Jumping there is a specific protocol to be used in case of blood on the flank, which is found in the Stewards’ Manual (Sep 2022), ANNEX XVI. This protocol is not used across the three disciplines.</p> <p>Proposal, to oversee the regulations regarding Abuse of Horse with the goal to harmonise these regulations.</p>
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<p>No change.</p> <p>This is a cross-discipline issue. In the Dressage Rules, bleeding is already addressed in strict terms.</p>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024
None
FEI Feedback
No change as per the FEI feedback from 26 June 2024.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
EEF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Art. 425.5.4., 5.8 and 5.9. Results and Calculation of Scores
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p><b><u>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc</u></b></p> <p>Due to the rounding up or down and then divided by the number of judges it can lead to a rounding difference by 0.001. If that happens one rider can be ahead of another rider by that margin but having achieved the higher median score and the same number of points.</p> <p>Current text:</p> <p>5.4. Percentages: all percentage calculations must be rounded up or down to three (3) decimals after the decimal point as per the following principle and example: 0.0011-0.0014 down; 0.0015 – 0.0019 up.</p> <p>5.8. In 5 and 6 yo Young Horses classes the five (5) marks are added up and multiplied by two (2), which gives the total score.</p> <p>5.9. The final percentage is obtained by adding the total average percentage per Judge divided by the number of Judges.</p> <p>Total average percentage per Judge: %          Judges at E 69.990%          Judge at H 70.333%          Judge at C 70.205%          Judge at M 71.120%          Judge at B 69.660%          Final percentage: 70.262%</p> <p>Proposed wording:          The calculation of scores will be done by points and the final score achieved (total number of points) is divided by the number of judges (3, 5 or 7) to get the final score in percentage points.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>No change.</p> <p>Not supported at this time, as the proposed change would not solve the issue and inconsistencies would remain.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>EEF</u>: The inconsistency will not remain if the average score will come from points and not percentage. It is simple math.</p> <p><u>Proposed Wording</u>:          Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc. Due to the rounding up or down and then divided by the number of judges it can lead to a rounding difference by 0.001. If that happens one rider can be ahead of another rider by that margin but having achieved the higher median score and the same number of points. Current text: 5.4. Percentages: all percentage calculations must be rounded up or down to three (3) decimals after the decimal point as per the following principle and example: 0.0011-0.0014 down; 0.0015 – 0.0019 up. 5.8. In 5 and 6 yo Young Horses classes the five (5) marks are added up and multiplied by two (2), which gives the total score. 5.9. The final percentage is obtained by adding the total average percentage per Judge divided by the number of Judges. Total average percentage per Judge: % Judges at E 69.990% Judge at H 70.333% Judge at C 70.205% Judge at M 71.120% Judge at B 69.660% Final percentage: 70.262%</p>



**FEI Feedback**

No change.

Not supported at this time, as the proposed change would not solve the issue and inconsistencies would remain.

The DTC is of the opinion that these are two different calculation methods. While the calculation method proposed may ensure that the combination with the higher median score is ranked ahead, the method currently used is illustrated by an example in the Dressage rules, to avoid any doubt about calculation.

This proposal can be discussed for the future; however, it is important to also consider the timeframe required to change the FEI IT system should a new method of calculating the scores be introduced. This IT rebuild would not be possible in time for the 01<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and therefore this matter needs further careful consideration.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
IDOC/DO
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
449.6 FEI OFFICIALS REIMBURSEMENT AND PER DIEM
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>The Fee for some officials group has already been changed (last GA 2022). All officials (Judges, including Para judges, and stewards) should get the same fee, not depending on the level/discipline etc. In the name of harmonization.</p> <p>We should not create different groups of officials, but always try to balance inequality and differences.</p> <p>Inflation has been sky-high, due to the global financial circumstances (War and Covid) We have good support from all stakeholder clubs on this matter.</p> <p>After the suggestion of the FEI, IDOC met with DO in 2023 and both stakeholders agreed on 160 EUR per day.</p> <p>Proposed wording:</p> <p>6. Per diem of hundred and <del>sixty (120-160)</del> EUR per day, (remuneration for miscellaneous costs. This amount is net after relevant taxes being borne by the OC), the per diem is due for all officiating days (including rest days between Competitions) plus one. At the discretion of the Official, the per diem for this additional day may be forfeited if the Official can conveniently travel on the officiating days.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<p>No change for 2025.</p> <p>The proposed increase in the Officials Per Diem is supported by the Dressage Technical Committee. The FEI Board is also supportive of this proposal, however, this proposal does not meet the criteria for a Rule change in 2025 and will be considered at the next full Revision of the Dressage Rules.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><u>EEF</u>: The EEF does not understand why reducing judges for the FEI WC Final is an urgent repair but the increase of the per diem is not. We support change proposed by the IDOC/DO.</p> <p><u>Proposed wording</u>:</p> <p>6. Per diem of hundred and <del>sixty (120-160)</del> EUR per day, (remuneration for miscellaneous costs. This amount is net after relevant taxes being borne by the OC), the per diem is due for all officiating days (including rest days between Competitions) plus one. At the discretion of the Official, the per diem for this additional day may be forfeited if the Official can conveniently travel on the officiating days.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
<p>As per the feedback from 26 June, no change for 2025.</p> <p>The proposed increase in the Officials Per Diem is supported by the Dressage Technical Committee. The FEI Board is also supportive of this proposal; however, this proposal does not meet the criteria for a Rule change in 2025 and will be considered at the next full Revision of the Dressage Rules. The reduction in the number of Officials at the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final is a cost saving measure for the Organisers in the current challenging financial climate.</p>