

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF DRESSAGE RULES 2024

Introduction

Further to the approval of the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy at the 2019 General Assembly (available here: <u>https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/governance/rules-revision-process</u>) the full revision of the Dressage Rules took place in 2022. Consequently, for this year's revision process NFs and MOU stakeholders were invited to propose only modifications that fulfilled the following criteria:

- 1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
- 2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.
- 3. New/recently introduced rule that has proven to be problematic in its implementation;
- 4. Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules;
- 5. IOC, IPC, WADA, ASOIF and similar organisations' policies' implementation;
- 6. Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.

In addition, the FEI Headquarters and the Dressage Committee have a number of proposals put forward based also on the above mentioned criteria.

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

A. <u>Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2024</u>. In this section you will find each of the Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders addressed by the FEI with the relevant feedback from the Dressage Committee; and

B. <u>Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI</u>

Please note the additional update to Articles 441.2 and 441.9.4, Ground Jury for FEI World Cup^{TM} Dressage Final which was omitted from the first draft, (see page 17).

Ronan Murphy Dressage Director

A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2024

Rules Proposal Submitted By

SWE NF, NED NF

Article No.-Article Name

Article 401.7, Categories of International Dressage Events

Explanation for Proposed Change

<u>Urgent repairs.</u>

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.

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.

Proposed Wording

A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in all categories except for CDIP and CDICh Events where snaffle bridle is 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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

DO

Article No.-Article Name

414.3 Entry Fee

Explanation for Proposed Change

Because of the officials per diem renumeration 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.

Proposed Wording

CDI4*/CDIO4* Max. 540 CHF CDI5*/CDIO5* Max. 625 CHF

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

IDOC

Article No.-Article Name

Art 422.4 Paperless Judging

Explanation for Proposed Change

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.

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.

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.

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

EEF

Article No.-Article Name

Art 423.9 Marking

Explanation for Proposed Change

1. Urgent repair for horse welfare.

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

FEI Feedback

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 Trend 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.

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

SWE NF

Article No.-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

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

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.

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.

Proposed Wording

Proposal, to oversee the regulations regarding Abuse of Horse with the goal to harmonise these regulations.

FEI Feedback

This is a cross-discipline issue. In the Dressage Rules, bleeding is already addressed in strict terms.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

EEF

Article No.-Article Name

Art. 425.5.4., 5.8 and 5.9. Results and Calculation of Scores

Explanation for Proposed Change

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%

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.

FEI Feedback

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

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

USA NF

Article No.-Article Name

Chapter IV Article 429.6.4 and Chapter V Article 433.4

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

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).

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.

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 & 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.

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 canceled 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.

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>.

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, except in North America).

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

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 in Western Europe.

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>in Western</u> <u>Europe.</u>

Rules Proposal Submitted By

NOR NF

Article No.-Article Name

431.4 Dress

Explanation for Proposed Change

<u>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc</u> <u>New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its</u> <u>implementation.</u>

Measuring of the spurs

According to Article 431.4.1 is states: "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).** »

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:

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 (**the overall shank must be measured from the boot to the end of the spur**) and must point only towards the rear.

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?

We would appreciate that the way of measuring spurs could be harmonized between the disciplines.

Proposed Wording

Harmonise between disciplines.

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

ARG NF

Article No.-Article Name

Art 431.5 Dress

Explanation for Proposed Change

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...

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. Use of one (1) eEarphones or similar devices are is however permitted during training and warm-up.

FEI Feedback

The DTC agreed with this proposal. It is important for Athlete safety that they can also hear their environment.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

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) e</u>Earphones or similar devices are is however permitted during training and warm-up.

Rules Proposal Submitted By

IDOC/DO

Article No.-Article Name

449.6 FEI OFFICIALS REIMBURSEMENT AND PER DIEM

Explanation for Proposed Change

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.

We should not create different groups of officials, but always try to balance inequality and differences.

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.

After the suggestion of the FEI, IDOC met with DO in 2023 and both stakeholders agreed on 160 EUR per day.

Proposed Wording

6. Per diem of hundred and <u>sixty (120-160</u>) 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.

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)



B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.-Article Name

408 SCHEDULING POSSIBILITIES – YOUTH EVENTS

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistency

Proposed Wording

- 3.2. The **Intermediate II** Test. Open to all Athletes.
- 3.3. The **Grand Prix 16-25** Test. 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 18th place) best Athlete/Horse combinations who qualified in the Intermediate II.
- 3.4. **Grand Prix Freestyle** <u>Test</u>. This Competition is limited to the six (6) (minimum) to eighteen (18) (maximum including ties for 18th 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.

Article No.-Article Name

410 SCHEDULING POSSIBILITIES - COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG HORSES

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification

Proposed Wording

1. Championship: Refer to the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses Rules published on the FEI Website.

2. CDIYH Competition Formats:

Competition 1	Competition 2	
Preliminary Dressage Test for five (5)-	Final Dressage Test for five (5)-year old	
year old Horses	Horses	
Preliminary Dressage Test for six (6)-	Final Dressage Test for six (6)-year old	
year old Horses	Horses	
Preliminary Dressage Test for seven	Final Dressage Test for seven (7)-year	
(7)-year old Horses	old Horses	

2.1. Both competitions at each age level are open to all Athlete/Horse combinations.

Article No.-Article Name

417 DRAW FOR STARTING ORDER

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification

Proposed Wording

3.3. 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. 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. The highest ranked Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.

Article No.-Article Name

417 DRAW FOR STARTING ORDER

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction, obsolete. Art 417.3.3 covers all possibilities regardless whether open to 15 or 18 combinations.

Proposed Wording

5. Grand Prix Special.

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 16th to 18th in the qualifying GP, then a second draw within the group of Athletes placed 11th to 15th and then a third draw within the group of Athletes placed 6th to 10th and a last draw within the group of Athletes placed 11st to 5th i.e. the five (5) best Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.

6. Freestyle.

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 16th to 18th in the qualifying Competition, then a second draw within the group of Athletes placed 11th to 15th and then a third draw within the group of Athletes placed 6th to 10th and a last draw within the group of Athletes placed 1st to 5th i.e. the five (5) best Athlete/Horse combinations will start last.

Article No.-Article Name

424.5.1 Reasons for Elimination - Lameness

Explanation for Proposed Change

Horse welfare

Proposed Wording

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</u> 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.

Article No.-Article Name 434.2.1.5 Saddlery - Equipment

Explanation for Proposed Change

This is covered in Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations.

Proposed Wording

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.

2.1.5 Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband.

Article No.-Article Name

441 Ground Jury

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistency

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.

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.

Proposed Wording

Current text Art 441:

- 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 <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.

Article No.-Article Name

441.2 Ground Jury for FEI World Cup[™] Dressage Final.

Explanation for Proposed Change

Other scenarios approved by the Board.

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.

Article 441.2:

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.

Proposed Wording

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.

At the FEI World CupTM Dressage Final, the FEI will appoint a Ground Jury consisting of seven (7) five (5) members and one (1) reserve.

Article No.-Article Name

441.9.4 Ground Jury for FEI World Cup[™] Dressage Final.

Explanation for Proposed Change

Other scenarios approved by the Board.

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.

Article 441.9.4:

For FEI World Cup^{TM} 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.

Proposed Wording

For FEI World CupTM Dressage Finals, the President and the other six (6)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 six (6)four (4) L4 Judges and one (1) L3 Judge. At least six (6)four (4) foreign Judges of different nationalities shall be appointed. Minimum one (1) L3 Judge must be appointed.

Article No.–Artic ANNEX 5 Sanction			
Explanation for Proposed Change			
Correction			
Proposed Wording			
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</u> <u>point (1%) and</u> <u>for the third</u> <u>error,</u> Elimination	