

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF PARA DRESSAGE RULES 2023

Introduction

Further to the approval of the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy at the 2019 General Assembly (available here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/governance/rules-revision-process>) the full revision of the Para 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 Para Equestrian 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. **Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2023**. 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 Para Equestrian Committee; and
- B. **Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI**

Sincerely Yours,



Sabrina Ibáñez

APSO President

FEI Secretary General

A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2023

Rules Proposal Submitted By
EEF
Article No.–Article Name
8403
Explanation for Proposed Change
Correction of inconsistency
Proposed Wording
We would recommend to keep consistency in the new naming of the Para-Dressage tests and to follow the correct Dressage naming of the tests also for the lower level Para-Dressage tests (ie Intermediate test should then be called Intermediaire).
FEI Feedback
The FEI Dressage tests are called Intermediate, so this request is not accepted by the PETC as the use of Intermediate is more consistent.
FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)
NA

B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8413 DECLARATION OF STARTERS
Explanation for Proposed Change
Correction of a typo. The word “cannot” should not have been included in this article.
Proposed Wording
In the event of an accident or illness of an Athlete declared as a starter, who consequently start in a Test, this Athlete cannot may, with the approval of the OC, together with the President of the Ground Jury, start in a later Competition, but only as an individual Athlete.

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8416.5 EXECUTION OF TESTS
Explanation for Proposed Change
Following the change proposed in the FEI Dressage Rules, the section “The Positions and aids of the Athlete” would be returned to the FEI Para Dressage Rules, rather than the Object and General Principles of Dressage and Para Dressage.
Proposed Wording
<p><u>5. The positions and aids of the Athlete</u></p> <p><u>5.1. The Athlete will be as well balanced and steady in the saddle as possible, conforming to the FEI definition of the Athlete’ position. This position makes it possible for the Athlete to show progressive riding and/or training and to show all the movements and transitions with as little effort of the Athlete as possible. The aids with which the Athlete communicates with the Horse are of great importance in Para Dressage.</u></p> <p><u>5.2. Where possible, Athletes will ride with both hands at all Para Dressage Events, not only when executing any of the Official Para Dressage Tests published by the FEI but also when executing any National Test that might be inserted in the program of the same event. However, when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished their performance, the Athlete may, at their own discretion, ride with only one (1) hand.</u></p> <p><u>5.2.1 A discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an Athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc).</u></p> <p><u>However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the Horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for 'Rider'. If foot reins are used, neither the hands nor arms may be used.</u></p> <p><u>5.3. Voice – Athletes in Grades I, II and III may use their voice as an aid, provided</u></p>

they do so in moderation. Athletes in Grades IV and V may not use their voice at any time during the execution of their Test. Once a Test has started the Athlete shall not speak to any other person, unless spoken to by the Judge. Such a fault will be penalized by the deduction of at least two (2) marks by each Judge from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 8421.4.2.1 PENALTIES – ERRORS - ELIMINATIONS

Explanation for Proposed Change

An error in the full rules revision meant that the technical fault for entering the space outside the arena was removed. The Para Equestrian Technical Committee determined that using “Field of Play” then included the arena and surrounding area.

Proposed Wording

All of the following are considered technical faults, and 0.5% (zero point five percentage points) will be deducted per fault by each Judge. The deductions defined below are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests):

- Entering the Field of Play to start the test Dressage arena with boots/bandages on the Horse’s legs or with discrepancy in dress: If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and if needed and possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete then continues the test, either starting from the beginning (from the inside of the fence) or from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed;

Article No.–Article Name

ARTICLE 8421.5 PENALTIES – ERRORS - ELIMINATIONS

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification was required that eliminations were on the combination rather than the athlete, as the athlete could compete also on a second horse. The further clarification for a test being delayed due to a valid reason was added to align with Dressage. These changes would also be included in the table of sanctions in Annex V.

Proposed Wording

- 5.1 If an Athlete does not enter the arena within 120 seconds of the bell being rung, the Athlete/Horse combination will be eliminated. Except where a valid reason has been informed to the Judge at C (Horse losing a shoe, etc...)
- 5.2 In a case of marked lameness the Judge at C informs the Athlete that they the combination are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.
- 5.3 In the case of a fall of Horse and/or Athlete, the Athlete-combination will be eliminated.

5.4 A Horse leaving the arena completely, with all four (4) feet and in a wilful manner, causing the Athlete to lose control, will be eliminated from the Competition. However, if the Athlete directs the Horse to the outside of the arena or the arena is not fully boarded, the Horse is not automatically eliminated. The decision is that of the Judge at C. Mentioned incidence will deduct the marks heavily.

Article No.–Article Name

ARTICLE 8421.5 PENALTIES – ERRORS - ELIMINATIONS

Explanation for Proposed Change

To ensure the welfare of the horse, the following articles are proposed to be included from the FEI Dressage Rules. This would also be included in the table of sanctions in Annex V.

Proposed Wording

5.5 Athlete/Horse combination not being able to fulfil the requirements of the level.

5.6 The performance is against the welfare of the Horse and/or shows abusive riding.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 8421.9 PENALTIES – ERRORS – ELIMINATIONS

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correcting an error. The article was moved from the section “Unauthorised Assistance” and the wording concerning Compensating aids was removed as that is covered under penalties and does not incur an elimination.

Proposed Wording

5.9 It is the responsibility of the Athlete to ensure that all equipment ~~and compensating aids~~ they use in Competition meets the requirements under the Para Dressage Rules. The penalty for competing with incorrect equipment is elimination of the Athlete/Horse combination.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 8422 RESULTS & CALCULATIONS OF SCORES

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction needed where there was still a reference to the Team test.

Proposed Wording

1. Team Results

The Team results for CPEDI3*s are calculated as follows: In all Team Competitions the winning team is the one having the highest combined percentage scores from the Para Grand Prix A and Para Grand Prix B added together of their three best Athletes, the second placed team is the one with the next highest percentage, and so on. In case of equality of percentages, the winning team is the one (1) whose third placed Athlete out of the best three (3) has the best result Para Grand Prix A & Para Grand Prix B added together.

1.1 The Team results for Championships: In the case of equality of percentages the winning team is the one whose lowest classified team Athlete has the best result in the Para Grand Prix B. If still tied the same rule will be applied to the second lowest classified Athlete in the ~~Team Test~~Para Grand Prix B.

Article No.–Article Name

ARTICLE 8427.10 DRESS

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification on the wording for spurs to include updates in current equipment.

Proposed Wording

Spurs are optional as a standard compensating Aid. Spurs must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight, pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the Athlete’s boot. Spurs must not be offset, unless allowed as a non-standard compensating aid and noted on the FEI Classification Master List. The arm of the spur must be smooth and blunt. If rowels are used, they must be blunt, smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard ~~plastic~~-knobs are allowed and may rotate (‘Impuls’ spurs). ~~or~~ “Dummy” spurs with no shank are also allowed.

Article No.–Article Name

ARTICLE 8431 SADDLERY - EQUIPMENT

Explanation for Proposed Change

With the release of the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress database, the Guidelines for the use of Tack, Equipment and Dress will no longer be used or published from 1 January 2024, so as not to have duplicates.

Proposed Wording

Please also refer to the FEI Dressage and Para Dressage Guidelines for Use of Tack, Equipment and Dress Database or the FEI TackApp for latest clarifications, published on the FEI website.

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8431.2.8 SADDLERY - EQUIPMENT
Explanation for Proposed Change
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;
Proposed Wording
Please refer to the memo on the Proposed Changes to the FEI General Regulations for the explanation of the proposed new rule in relation to Nosebands. If you have comments on the proposal in relation to nosebands, please include them as part of your NF’s feedback on the General Regulations.

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8431.4.2 SADDLERY – EQUIPMENT
Explanation for Proposed Change
Change to align with Dressage for Horse Welfare reasons.
Proposed Wording
Ear hoods are permitted for all Events, and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the Horse’s eyes and ear plugs are not permitted. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband. Ear plugs on Horses are forbidden but are allowed at prize giving ceremonies <u>and Horse Inspections</u> only for safety reasons. Random checks will be conducted and contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8432.3 COMPENSATING AIDS
Explanation for Proposed Change
Due to updates in the use of equipment, the size of handholds is no longer current, so the PETC would clarify that the important size is the distance from the pommel and not the length of the hand hold.
Proposed Wording
Hand Holds All Athletes may use a soft (flexible) handhold to assist the Athlete to balance. The soft hand hold must not be more than thirty centimetres (30cm) in length, and no more than 10 centimetres (10 cm) above the top of the pommel when held. It may be attached to the front of the saddle, in front of or above the pommel. This is a standard compensating aid.

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8432.5.2 COMPENSATING AIDS
Explanation for Proposed Change
Clarification for a rule that was new in 2023 and has proven to need this further information for Horse welfare.
Proposed Wording
Joined reins must have a minimum of 30cm from the <u>curb</u> bit to the join in the rein. It must be formed into a single rein in the Athlete’s hand .

Article No.–Article Name
ARTICLE 8432.5.7 COMPENSATING AIDS
Explanation for Proposed Change
A change that was made for 2023 has caused issues for Athletes using looped and ladder reins. The PETC, with consultation from the Compensating Aids Panel, have agreed the following.
The original rationale for reducing the looped reins was for safety reasons, as with no clear guidance rein designs have been adapted in such a way that they put both horse and rider at risk should an accident occur. CAP have listened to riders concerns and, with primary rationale for safety and clarity propose, the following has been agreed.
<u>Looped reins</u> Maximum of 4 loops. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length. These can be attached to the rein by a fixed attachment or by a loop that is clipped to attachments on the rein to allow for adjustment. It is felt that any more than 4 loops are a safety issue and give undue excessive weight to the reins for both horse and rider.
CAP happy for reins to have up to eight attachments for loops (only four to be used at any time)
<u>Finger loops (fixed)</u> Maximum of 6 'loops' stitched on to the rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 10cm in length
<u>Ladder reins</u> No more than 3 ladders
No variations of the above will be allowed and <u>all loops must be on a single rein.</u>
CAP feel that the reins, which is a single rein split with ladder type loops to be attached to the bit on both sides, is extremely unsafe and also works as a leverage when held and therefore do not approve.

Proposed Wording

1.1 Looped and Ladder reins are a profile-specific compensating aid.

~~1.1.1~~ ~~Looped reins may have a maximum of three loops on each rein, and~~ Looped Reins:

Maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length. These can be attached to the rein by a fixed attachment or by a loop that is clipped to attachments on the rein to allow for adjustment. There can be up to eight attachments on each rein.

or

A maximum of six fixed finger loops can be stitched to the rein. Each loop measuring no more than 10cm in length.

~~1.1.1~~1.2 Ladder reins can have a maximum of three soft rungs between the reins. All ladders must be on a single rein.

Article No.–Article Name

ARTICLE 8436.4 SCHOOLING OF HORSES

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification required for sharing of Horses, for Horse welfare reasons.

Proposed Wording

1. In no case shall Athletes in the same Grade or different NFs be permitted to share a Horse in the same star Level.

Article No.–Article Name

ANNEX IV COMPENSATING AIDS SUMMARY

Explanation for Proposed Change

Two elements are proposed to be removed from the table. The electronic Communication device is linked to Callers or Commanders by the rules and does not need to be listed separately. The Beacon beeper is covered in the rules for Callers.

Reins through Ring on saddle was added as a compensating aid to the athletes in profile16.

Proposed Wording

~~Electronic communication device~~
~~Beacon-beeper~~

See the table below

COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE

Profile-Specific Compensating Aids																	
Profile	Grade	Raised pommel	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Looped or ladder reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on	Strap, stirrup leather to	Strap, stirrup iron	No stirrups	Electronic communication	Use of sign language	Callers	Beacon beeper	Commander
1-6	I/II	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•					
7	I	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•					
8	III		•	•	•		•			•	•	•					
9	II	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•					
10a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•					•	•	•					
11a/b	II/III		•	•	•					•	•	•					
12a/b	I/II		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•					
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	III		•	•				•				•					
28	IV		•		•												
31a/b/32	II/III		•	•	•		•			•	•	•					
36/37a	IV/V												•		•	•	
38	N/A												•	•			
39	N/A																
On Master List		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	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
 Joined rein on double bridle
 Elastic inserts in reins
 Safety vest (including inflatable)
 Knotted Reins/Rein Stops

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.