

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF PARA DRESSAGE RULES 2024

Introduction

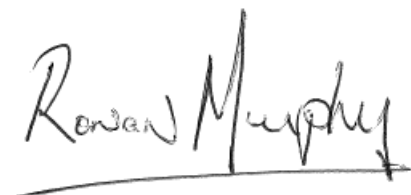
Further to the approval of the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy at the 2019 General Assembly (available here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/governance/rules-revision-process>) the full revision of the Para Dressage Rules took place in 2022. Consequently, for this year's revision process NFs 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 Technical 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 2024.** 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**



Ronan Murphy

Para Dressage Director

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

None received.

B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.–Article Name					
8402.7 – FEI World and Continental Senior Championships Format					
Explanation for Proposed Change					
Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc					
The table explaining the format is difficult to understand and so the PETC suggested to clarify this. The content remains the same, but the explanation is clearer.					
Proposed Wording					
	Competition / Medals	Para Dressage Test	Participation	Medals	Description
	First Competition – Individual Medals in each Grade <u>Individual Medal Event</u>	Para Grand Prix A	All Athletes	<u>Individual medals in each Grade</u>	First qualifier for the Individual Final & Individual Championships
	Second Competition Team Medals <u>Team medal event</u>	Para Grand Prix B	All Athletes	<u>Team medals</u>	Second qualifier for the individual Final and Team final
	Third Competition <u>Individual Freestyle Medal Event</u>	Para Grand Prix Freestyle	For qualified Athletes	<u>Individual Medals in each Grade</u>	Individual Final

Article No.–Article Name
Article 8421.5.2 Eliminations (Lameness)
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
In the interest of horse welfare, the Para Dressage rules needed to include more information on the protocol to be followed in the event of Elimination from competition due to lameness of a horse, should that horse be entered to start in another competition at the same event.
Proposed Wording
In a case of marked lameness the Judge at C informs the Athlete that the combination is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. <u>The Horse must be reinspected by an inspection panel prior to competing in any further competitions at the Show (including shared when Horses are shared with other Athletes).</u>

Article No.–Article Name

Article 8421.5.3 Eliminations (Fall of Horse and / or Athlete)

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

In the interest of athlete and horse welfare, the Para Dressage rules needed to include more information on the protocol to be followed in the case of a fall of horse and / or athlete.

Proposed Wording

5.3 Fall of Horse and/or Athlete

5.3.1 Any fall of Horse and/or Athlete during the test shall result in immediate elimination from that test. A horse is considered to have fallen when its shoulders and quarters have touched the ground. An Athlete is considered to have fallen when, involuntarily, the Athlete is separated from their Horse.

5.3.2 Protocol to be followed in case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse

In the case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse at any time in the Competition arena, in the warm-up arena or elsewhere within the grounds of the Event, the Athlete must be checked by the Event’s medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they may be permitted to remount any horse at the Event. Respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event. According to the provisions outlined in paragraphs below, the Ground Jury may, at its discretion, decide to delay the rider’s test by a reasonable amount of time that allows them to be checked by the Event’s medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) or respectively the Horse to be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate.

5.3.3 Fall in the Competition Arena

5.3.3.1 Fall prior to starting the test (before the entry at A)

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse at any time prior to starting the test by entering the arena at A, the combination is not eliminated but will not be permitted to start in the test in question; in this case the combination shall be listed in the results as “did not start” in that competition. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event’s medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the case of a fall of horse, the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next round of Competition at the Event.

4.1.25.3.3.2 Fall during the test

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse during the test, the combination is eliminated. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event’s medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the event of a horse fall, the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next Competition at the Event.

4.1.35.3.3.3 Fall after finishing the test (after the salute as the horse moves forward)
In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse after finishing the test, the combination is not eliminated from the competition in question. The Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or Horse may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event.

4.2.3.3.4 Fall in the warm-up arena, and training areas
In case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse in the warm-up arena or training areas, the Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or the Horse may be permitted to take part in the any Competition at the Event.-in-progress.

Article No.–Article Name

8431.1.3

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

A clarification was required for the safety of the athletes, as to what stirrups could be used with straps from the stirrup iron/leathers

Proposed Wording

If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth ~~these straps~~ prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.

Article No.–Article Name

8431.2.8

Explanation for Proposed Change

Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.

The reference to noseband testing in the Stewards Manual needed to be updated to refer to the Noseband Protocol in place from 1 January 2025.

Proposed Wording

At any level of Competition a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to the Horse, Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband ~~and must be checked as per the Stewards Manual noseband protocol.~~

Article No.–Article Name

8432.3.3 Hard Hand Holds

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

The removal of the sizing of soft hand holds in 2023 meant that the sizing was also lost for hard hand holds, where it should have remained. This addition was necessary as it was left out of the rules unintentionally.

Proposed Wording

Athletes within nominated Functional profiles may use a hard (fixed/rigid) handhold if required. The hard handhold must ~~not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide. comply with the same measurement criteria as the soft handhold above.~~ Any deviation from these measurements will be considered as a non-standard compensating aid. Hard hand holds must be stated on the FEI Classification Master List for that Athlete.

Article No.–Article Name

8432.5.7.1

Explanation for Proposed Change

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

In 2023 the description for looped reins was updated, but needed further clarification for stewards and athletes understanding of the rule.

Proposed Wording

Looped Reins:
 Maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside the loops. 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.

Article No.–Article Name

Annex IV – Compensating Aids Summary

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

The profile specific compensating aids in the Manual for Classifiers included “Velcro strap mid-thigh”, which needed to be added to the Summary table for completeness

COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE

Profile-Specific Compensating Aids

Profile	Grade	Raised pommel or cantle	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Looped or ladder reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No stirrups	Velcro strap mid-thigh	Use of sign language	Callers	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		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•(31)			
36/37a	IV/V														•	
38	N/A													•		
39	N/A															
On Master List		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	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
 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.