

**PROPOSALS FOR 2020 MODIFICATIONS TO THE  
PARA DRESSAGE RULES**

26 October 2020

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Para 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 2020](#); and
- B. [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Bettina De Rham,

Para Dressage Director

23 November 2020

## A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

<b>Proposal from FEI</b>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8427.6 – Dress</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
All VI Classified athletes (eligible or not) should wear an armband. This does not apply only for Grades IV and V. This is an inconsistency in the rules.
<b>Proposed Wording on 13 July 2020</b>
6. An arm band, provided by the Athlete, in a distinctive colour must be worn at all times by <del>Grade IV and V</del> Athletes with classified visual impairment while mounted outside of the Competition.
<b>Comments received by 31 August 2020</b>
No comments were received.
<b>FEI feedback</b>
N/A
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2020</b>
Wording remains as in proposal above.

<b>Proposal from FEI</b>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8428.1.1.2</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
There is an inconsistency with the Stewards Manual and the Rules, where the Stewards Manual states: "In the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather (this also applies to safety stirrups) must hang freely from the safety bar of the saddle and the outside of the flap. The Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddlery."  The PETC would suggest to include the below in the FEI Para Dressage Rules.
<b>Proposed Wording on 13 July 2020</b>

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1.1.2 Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. The stirrup leathers must have a release mechanism where they are attached to the saddle. Unless stated on the FEI Masterlist, stirrup leathers must be on the outside of the saddle flap and hang freely from the safety bar of the saddle. The Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddlery

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

#### Comments received by 31 August 2020

NOR - We fully support the proposed description of safety stirrups and that it is now included in the Para-dressage rules. We suggest that the same wording, except the last sentence in 1.1.2, "The Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddlery", is added in all other disciplines as well.

Regarding this last sentence, which is not only related to the stirrup, we suggest that this should be moved to another article covering saddlery in general, in the Para-dressage rules.

#### FEI feedback

This comment was circulated to the other disciplines for discussion. In Para Dressage it would remain as proposed, as there is already an article 8428.2.5.1 which states that the athlete must not be attached to any saddlery.

#### Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2020

Wording remains as in proposal above.

#### Proposal from FEI

##### Article Number – Article Name

##### Article 8439 – Classifiers

##### Explanation for Proposed Change

Classifiers should be at all CPEDI events, not only in CPEDI3\*s, so the contradiction between articles 8439.1 and 8439.3.2 needs to be corrected. The word "nominated" also needs to be removed as this was left from previous years.

##### Proposed Wording on 13 July 2020

1. Classification is carried out in line with the IPC Classification Code. For all CPEDI~~3~~\*s and FEI Championships, two (2) FEI Para Equestrian Classifiers must be present, and one (1) classifier must be from a foreign NF. The Classifiers must remain until the first appearance is completed of all Classified Athletes.

2. Classification for Athletes with visual impairment (Profile 36 and 37) must be carried out by a panel of two (2) International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Classifiers and one (1) classifier must be from a foreign NF.

3. The FEI will approve the Classifiers for all ~~nominated~~ Competitions except Major Championships (as defined in the Para Dressage Rules) which will be appointed by the

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FEI. A list of Classifiers qualified to officiate at all levels of Events will be maintained by the FEI.

3.1 For FEI Championships, the FEI will appoint one (1) Level 2 Chief Classifier and one (1) Level 2 Classifier.

3.2 At CPEDIs, one (1) Level 2 Chief Classifier and one (1) Level 1 or above Classifier must be appointed by the OC.

**Comments received by 31 August 2020**

No comments were received.

**FEI feedback**

N/A

**Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2020**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

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

<b>Proposal from NED National Federation</b>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
N/A
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
In Dressage it is compulsory to supply the judges with the floor-plan for the Freestyle Test. In order to have consistency in the rules we propose for the same rule for Para Dressage. This will allow judges and commentators to see if a movement is executed deliberately or it is a matter of an incorrect execution. This could be tried out during the Tokyo Paralympics.
<b>Proposed Wording on 13 July 2020</b>
N/A
<b>Comments received by 31 August 2020</b>
No comments received.
<b>FEI feedback</b>
This does not meet any of the six criteria to be considered for 2021 and the DOD Freestyle for Para Dressage is not developed yet. This will be considered for the full rules revision for 2022.

<b>Proposal from BEL National Federation</b>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
8430.7.6 Bleeding
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the check at the end of the test, the combination must be eliminated. Not just in the horse's mouth or the spurs area.
<b>Proposed Wording on 13 July 2020</b>
7.6. Bleeding:  7.6.1 If the Judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the Horse during the test, he will stop the Horse to check for blood. If the Horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the Horse has no fresh blood, the Horse may resume and finish its test.

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~~7.6.2.1 If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test (Article 430.9), he informs the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete.~~

~~7.6.2.2 If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood anywhere else on the Horse's body (i.e. other than the Horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs) during the check at the end of the test, the Athlete/Horse combination is not automatically eliminated. The FEI Chief Steward shall inform the Judge at C whether the Horse is fit to continue in following competition(s) in the Event. The Judge at C will take a decision on the Horse's fitness to continue, based on the FEI Veterinarian's advice. If the Judge at C decides the Horse is not fit to continue, the Horse will not be permitted to take part in any further Competition(s) or tests at the Event, but the result(s) obtained by the Athlete/Horse combination in any Competition(s) or tests already completed shall stand.~~

~~7.6.3 If the Horse is eliminated pursuant to the above, or if the Horse is injured during the test and starts bleeding after finishing the test, it should be examined by an FEI Veterinarian prior to the next Competition to determine if it is fit to continue in the Event the following day(s). The decision of the FEI Veterinarian is not subject to appeal.~~

**Comments received by 31 August 2020**

No comments received.

**FEI feedback**

The PETC would not agree to this change, as the Rule was only changed in 2020 and they did not believe that this change would be fair to the Athletes.