



Session 10 – Dressage Rules – Full Revision

Dressage Rules Speakers:

- ◆ Maribel Alonso de Quinzaños (MEX), Chair of the FEI Dressage Committee
- ◆ Bettina de Rham, FEI Director of Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting
- ◆ Patrik Kittel (SWE), Member of the FEI Dressage Committee

Bettina de Rham opened the session, welcomed all and introduced the Panel to the audience.

1. Dressage – Rule book structure

The FEI Dressage Committee proposes to restructure the Dressage Rule book to create a more logical order. The first part (current Articles 401-418) describing the movements and general principles was to be removed from the rule book and published as guidelines on the website.

2. CDI Competition Structure

Currently there was not a great differentiation regarding which tests could be used at which level CDIs. A new CDI competition structure was proposed, with on a lower level, CDI1* for the Small tour tests (Prix St George, Intermediate I) and CDI2* for the Medium tour (Intermediate A/B). As high level events for the Big tour (Grand Prix level), CDI3* would have an upper prize money limit but no lower limit; CDI4* and CDI5* would have different prize money limits. All these, and the CDI-W (GP level) would also have different % levels required to qualify for the respective Freestyle tests.

As the CDI3* had no minimum prize money and could thus even be run without prize money, this would not be an issue for the Organisers. Will Connell (USA NF) asked regarding there CDI-W prize money; no change was planned here, with minimum limits only for the WEL.

3. Amateurs

The aim was to have a clear and simple definition and standardize types of competitions for Amateur riders throughout the world, taking into account specific conditions applying exclusively to this level of riders. The FEI Rules for dressage events were to apply to all international dressage events for Amateur riders except where stated differently in the relevant Annex. When judging Amateur classes, judges have to use exactly the same principles and judging criteria as at all other CDIs. Tests to be used would be the Senior tests up to and including FEI GP and GP Freestyle, excluding GP Special. Ground Jury of three Judges.

The proposed Rules specific to an Amateur Athlete were:

- Must possess a valid Amateur's licence granted by their NF
- May not earn most if their income from within the sport



- May not hold any valid riding instructor/trainer licence

It was proposed that an Amateur's license cannot be granted or can be suspended in the following cases:

- Having participated in international non-Amateur Grand Prix Competitions in Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special with a result of 68% and over more than twice in the last 5 years.
- Having participated in the FEI Senior Continental Championships, World Championships, World Cup Finals or Olympic Games in the discipline of Dressage.

Questions were raised from the NOR NF regarding the licence, as many NFs did not have this. A simple letter from the NF confirming that the Athlete complies with the conditions set for Amateurs would be sufficient.

POL NF pointed out that the word "equestrian" should be added to the second point (about earring income) under the proposed rules.

4. Main Proposals received from NFs and Stakeholders

- Short Grand Prix

At a meeting with the Athletes at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ 2022 Final in Leipzig (GER), the proposal had been not to use the Short Grand Prix test at the Final, and leave it optional for the OCs to choose GP or Short GP for the CDI-W qualifiers. Also the Short GP would not be proposed for other levels for the time being. The GER NF welcomed this possibility for the OCs to choose which GP test to use.

- Collective Mark

Re-introducing a second Collective Mark had been proposed by some NFs/Stakeholder Groups. The Dressage Committee had not agreed on this point.

The Chair reminded that the Collective Mark(s) had been thoroughly investigated by the Dressage Judging Working Group (DJWG) and was thoroughly explained in their report which had been approved by the FEI General Assembly. It was important to remember that the Collective Marks had been removed based on scientific evidence in order to have more transparency and fairness. If this was to be changed back, new scientific evidence to support such a change would have to be presented.

Patrik Kittel agreed that it was a difficult topic with many different opinions. Some said that a General Impression mark was not specific enough. The main thing was to thoroughly review the evidence and not rush into any change but to focus on what was best for the sport.

The GER NF commented that there was no new evidence now, but the open discussion on the subject was welcomed.



The GBR NF stressed the importance of staying true to the findings of the DJWG, and saw no justification for adding another collective mark, as this would open up to more subjectivity and bias. The sport was more transparent without a second Collective mark.

The IDTC reinforced the GBR NF's point to stay with the evidence based decision following the DJWG report.

- **Conditions of participation - Main Arena Familiarisation**

A protocol for this should be introduced to ensure consistency.

- **Spurs**

Mikael Rentsch, FEI Legal Director, had previously given a presentation regarding tack and equipment. The Dressage Committee for the time being proposed to keep spurs compulsory as dummy spurs were permitted, in order not to create false perceptions and keep a level playing field.

- **False Tails**

The DC proposed to change the procedure as follows:

- Introduce random checks at Events (as it is done with fly hoods).
- If weights or metal etc. is found, it would entail a yellow warning card and elimination (same procedure and consequences regarding the checking of ear hoods, e.g. if ear plugs were found to have been used in competition).

No further comments were received for the Dressage Rules.