SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

NATIONAL DRESSAGE RULES 2010

(*Effective from1st* ***May*** *2010)*

PREAMBLE

These National Rules for the Dressage Discipline are produced mainly for use at CN or lower Status Events and have been drawn up in the broadest possible terms so as to allow show-holding bodies affiliated to a Provincial Body, and the Provincial Body itself, as much freedom as possible in the management of their shows and in the preparation of their schedules. Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury to make a decision in a sporting spirit, by approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations of SANEF and the FEI.

These rules have to be read in conjunction with the SANEF General Rules and Regulations, which are uniform for all disciplines falling under SANEF jurisdiction, as well as the FEI Dressage Rules and Veterinary Regulations.

The Object and General Principles of Dressage, as defined by the FEI Dressage Rules, in Articles 401 to 418 are reproduced in Section 39 of these rules. Requirements for all dressage movements are included in this Section.

It is SANEF's intention to follow the FEI Dressage Rules as closely as possible and although these rules may differ in some respects from those of the FEI Dressage Rules, should any relevant point or matter not be covered in the SANEF dressage rules then the relevant FEI rule will apply

Any CDI or CDIO Event must be run strictly under FEI Rules.*

All other texts covering the same matter (other editions and all other official documents) issued previously are superseded.

Finally we quote from the Rules of the FEI

Code of Conduct

The Fédération Equestre International (FEI) expects all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

1. *At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.*
2. *Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.*
3. *Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.*
4. *Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.*
5. *The FEI urges all involved with the sport to attain the highest levels of education in their areas of expertise.*

A full copy of this Code can be obtained from the Fédération Equestre Internationale, Avenue Mon-Repos 24, CH-1000, Lausanne 5, Switzerland. Telephone: +41 2131 04747

The Code is available in English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic

The Code is also available on the FEI's website: www.horsesport.org.

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SECTION 31

GENERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to the SANEF General Regulations, but concerning the Dressage Discipline only, the National Committee will compile a set of "Guidelines" and "Check List" for the benefit of organisers of major events. These Guidelines and Check List will be reviewed and amended from time to time as deemed necessary.

31.1.0 CROSS ENTRIES

This has to be read in conjunction with SANEF General Regulations 01.10.6

31.1.1 Provincial Bodies shall only give consent to include Juniors competing in Adult classes where the number of Juniors is such that it is impracticable to stage separate classes for Adults and Juniors. Separate prizes and grading points (where class is graded) must be awarded.

31.2.0 NUMBER OF ENTRIES

This has to be read in conjunction with SANEF General Regulations 01.10.7.

31.2.1 Should there be 25 or more competitors, it is recommended that the competition be divided into two or more pools depending on the number of entries. Separate prize money must be awarded to each pool and the jury may be different for each pool. In cases of major competitions such as championships or where a competition offers a medal or a trophy etc, a qualifier, split into separate pools, may be ridden and the top 15 to 25 horses selected for the final competition. The same jury should judge all pools and the competition may be run over more than one day. If this is not possible in regions where there are large volumes of qualifiers, a suitable formula should be worked out and approved by the Regional Dressage Committee for pools with different judges. Separate prize money must be awarded for each pool.

31.3.0 ORDER OF STARTING (Preferred system of drawing the starting order)

31.3.1 **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

The Organising Committee of the Event shall draw the order of starting for each competition in the Event.

31.3.2 Where this is not practicable, the order of starting for the first competition of each grade of horse in the Event shall be drawn. Thereafter the horses in all subsequent competitions in each grade will be displaced proportionately in relation to the number of competitions, in as fair a manner as possible.

31.3.3 Should a competitor have more than one horse in a competition the order of starting will be adjusted by the Organising Committee to ensure that, whenever possible, these horses will have a gap of at least six places or sixty minutes between them where possible. Such competitors may, at the time of entry, nominate in which order they wish to ride their various horses. Failure to do this will result in the competitor having to ride in the order of the draw or programme. This provision will not apply in Team Competitions where the Team horse must always be ridden first. (See rule 31.3.12).

Should the number of entries in a competition make this provision impractical then, if the rider wishes, he shall be allowed a rest period of forty minutes between completing one ride and commencing the next.

31.3.4 No rider shall compete in more than one pool in a competition. Where a substitution occurs which gives a rider horses in two pools, that combination of horse and rider shall be transferred to the pool in which the rider was originally drawn to ride.

31.3.5 Competitors may NOT ride out of order. Any request to ride out of order must be referred to the Show Director (or SANEF representative at National Events) whose permission will only be granted if circumstances warrant such changes and where the programme can accommodate such changes.

31.3.6 Organising Committees may run two classes concurrently in such a way that competitors will start the second class after completing the first one, with a rest period recommended, keeping the original order of starting.

31.3.7 TEAM COMPETITIONS (including National Team Championships) Refer General Regulations 04.11.0

31.3.8 COMBINED INDIVIDUAL / TEAM COMPETITIONS

31.3.9 In competitions in which the competitor's individual score in the individual competition also counts for his team score in the team competition, the provisions of General Regulations 4.11.0 shall first be complied with.

31.3.10 Thereafter,, the provisions of rules 31.3.1-6 shall be complied with for the Individual competitors who may be interspersed between the team entries ensuring that the provisions of rule 31.3.3 are complied with and further ensuring that a rider shall always ride his team entry horse before his individual entry horse or horses.

SECTION 32

32.1.0 TESTS, ARENAS AND OFFICIALS

32.1.1 To qualify for grading, tests must be selected from the current SANEF or FEI Official Tests.

32.1.2 For Adult and Junior competitions the same series of Tests shall be used.

32.1.3 For Pony riders the current Pony Rider SANEF and FEI tests shall be ridden.

32.2.0 CALLING OF TESTS

32.2.1 In all competitions other than the Adult and Junior (Individual) Championship of South Africa and the SANEF competition, competitors shall have the option of having the Test called unless stipulated to the contrary in the Schedule (rule 37.7.1), or the test being an official FEI Test, in which case it must be ridden from memory. Where an FEI test is used as warm up or qualifier, then the Schedule may stipulate that it may be called. This will however not apply to Prix St Georges and up where the test will always be ridden from memory

32.2.2 Only the wording printed on the official test may be called and may be repeated.

32.2.3 Competitors shall provide their own callers.

32.2.4 Any error in riding the Test, whether by reason of faulty calling or not, shall be penalised as per rule 32.6.8.

32.2.5 Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. is considered as illegal or unauthorised assistance to a rider or to his horse. A rider or horse receiving unauthorised assistance must be eliminated.

32.2.6 If the incorrect test is called the Judge may provide the caller with a correct test and allow the competitor to continue the test after deducting the relevant marks for Error of Course (see rule 32.2.4 and 32.6.8)

32.3.0 ARENAS

32.3.1 All tests are ridden individually in an arena of 60 metres by 20 metres, or 40 metres by 20 metres as per the official test. (See Appendix DS/1).

32.3.2 The arena shall be set up in accordance with Appendix DS/1 where spectators or other objects, as far as possible should be outside the 10 metre limit, but under no circumstances may they be inside a 5 metre limit. Indoor arenas should comply as far as possible to the spirit of this rule.

32.3.3 The arena surrounds shall not be constructed of any material that may cause a horse to take fright or cause injury. The arena should be completely closed and the minimum height of the surround should be between 25 and 30cm.

32.3.4 At all major events and at all National Championships a centre line is recommended. When a centre line is used, it should be clear but discreet. The points DLXI and G should not be marked. For Freestyle tests and Young Horse tests a centre line is not recommended. Arenas should be dust free.

During National Team Competitions, where tests are ridden in all weather arenas, the centre line should be raked after every fifth horse, except when there are five teams competing, when it should be raked after every fourth horse. It is recommended that the whole arena be raked. If the whole arena cannot be raked then at least the corners should be raked.

32.3.5 RIDING IN THE ARENA

On penalty of elimination no horse, either ridden or led, may enter the competition arena(s) except when actually competing unless special permission to do so has been granted by the Show Director and the SANEF Representative. It is recommended that Organising Committees allow all competitors a chance to ride in the competition arenas, before competing at all major events, in order to ensure that the horses are able to give creditable performances during the event. Arenas should be made available on the day prior to the competition and at set times before or after classes during the event.

Entering the arena. For indoor competitions and other arenas where it is not practical for the riders to ride their horses around the outside of the arena prior to entering the arena, riders must be permitted to enter the arena for a period of sixty seconds before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded and where practical, competitors must leave the arena before commencing their test.

32.4.0 JUDGES AND OFFICIALS (to be read in conjunction with Appendix DS/7)

32.4.1 All persons who are members of recognised panels of officials, whether Provincial, SANEF or FEI shall be members of the Provincial Body where they are normally resident.

32.4.2 Irrespective of whether or not events organised by affiliated bodies are for grading purposes, the use of officials on Provincial, SANEF and FEI authorised panels, as applicable, is obligatory, unless permission is obtained from the Provincial Committee for Provincial Competitions or the National Committee for National Events.

32.4.3 Judges shall be appointed by the Organising Committee and where there is more than one judge, the Organising Committee shall appoint the President of the Jury. For National Individual and Team Championships refer also to rules 37.9.0, 37.10.1, 38.11.0 and 38.13.1

32.5.0 JUDGING OF TESTS

32.5.1 All dressage competitions staged at recognised events shall be conducted, judged and marked in accordance with SANEF Rules for Dressage competitions or FEI rules for Dressage where the event is a CDI, CDIO or an FEI event.

32.5.2 Horses may be disqualified from a competition, if in the opinion of the judges, their performance is not up to standard.

32.5.3 Prize Money shall be allotted in accordance with rule 01.14.0. of the SANEF General Regulations

32.5.4 In case of any technical failure that will interfere with the competition, the judge at C shall ring the bell. It is recommended that in clear cases of external disturbance, the same procedure is applied. In the case of an athlete's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the rider can, with the permission of the President of the class, leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders athletes. The affected rider athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The President of the class, after conferring with the rider ,will determine when the rider should return to the arena. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In any case the already given marks will not be changed.

32.6.0 SCORING

32.6.1 The Judges will award marks for each movement of the test in a range of 10 to 0. Preliminary level and Novice tests may be judged by one or more judges and an overall mark given out of 10. Young Horse tests must be judged by a panel of judges sitting together at C and an overall mark given out of 10.
(see Appendix DS/10)

32.6.2 In the case of one Judge the points are added up to give the competitor's score.

32.6.3 In the case of two or more judges the totals are added together to give the competitor's score and a percentage calculated.

32.6.4 Penalty points are deducted from each individual judge's total.

32.6.5 In the event of a tie for 1st place in Novice classes and below, the total of collective marks may be used to determine the winner. Should the total of the collective marks still be equal then the result will be a tie.

32.6.6 The score is converted to a percentage for calculating the competitor's grading points as per rule 34.2.1.

32.6.7 The scale of marks is as follows:

10 Excellent	4 Insufficient
9 Very Good	3 Fairly Bad
8 Good	2 Bad
7 Fairly Good	1 Very Bad
6 Satisfactory	0 Not executed
5 Sufficient	

Where marks of below 6 are awarded, Judges are obliged to record their reason why the mark was given next to the movement on the test sheet.

"Not Executed" means that nothing of the required movement has been performed.

In Freestyle tests, half marks may be used for the artistic marks.

Collective marks are awarded after the competitor has completed his performance for:

1. Paces.
2. Impulsion.
3. Submission.
4. The rider's position and seat, correctness and effect of the aids.

Preliminary tests and young horse tests have different categories.

Each collective mark is awarded 0 to 10.

32.6.7 In the event of a Judge altering a mark already awarded, the Judge shall initial such alteration, and the alteration may not be accepted by the recorder without such authorization. No alteration may be made to marks once test sheets have been handed to the recorder, unless a mark has been omitted, or an error spotted.

All tests shall be marked in ink and signed by the judge.

32.6.8 When a competitor makes an error of course (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc.), the President of the Jury (judge at 'C') warns him, by sounding the bell. The President of the Jury shows him if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an error of course, the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance – for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of at K, or cantering up the centreline from A, makes a pirouette at D instead of at L – it is up to the President of the Ground Jury to decide whether to ring the bell or not.

However, if the bell is not sounded at an error of course and the test requires the same movement to be repeated and the rider again makes the same error, the rider is only penalized once.

The decision whether or not an error of course was made will be that of the President of the Ground Jury, the other judges' scores will be adjusted accordingly.

32.6.9 Every error of course whether the bell was sounded or not, must be penalised:

- The first time by 2 points.
- The second by 4 points.
- The third time the competitor is eliminated.

Except as noted above.

In principle a competitor may not repeat a movement of a test unless the President of the Ground Jury decides on an error of course (rings the bell). If however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judge must consider the first movement only, and at the same time penalise as for an error of course.

Unnoticed error. If the Jury has not noticed an error, the competitor will not be penalized.

32.6.10 Rising & Sitting Trot

Errors made contrary to test instructions will be penalised as in Rule 32.9.1. by the deduction of two marks from those that would be awarded for each movement in which the error occurs. However, when riding FEI tests these will be counted as an error of course.

32.6.11 Elimination.-(Summarizing when you eliminate and when you penalize)

Lameness. In a case of marked lameness, the President of the Jury informs the rider that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

Resistance. Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds is punished by elimination. However, resistance that may endanger rider, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons, earlier than within 20 seconds. This also applies to any resistancebefore the entering the dressage arena.

Fall. In the case of a fall of horse and/or athlete, the athlete will be eliminated.

Leaving arena during dressage test. As per rule 32.9.6 I. A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, during a dressage competition between the time of entry and the time of exit at A, will be eliminated.

Outside assistance. Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. is considered an illegal or unauthorized assistance to an athlete or to his horse. An athlete or horse receiving positive assistance must be eliminated.

Other reasons for Elimination may also be:

Horse and rider combination not being able to fulfill the requirements of the level. The performance is against the welfare of the horse.

- Horse and rider combination not entering the competition arena within the specified starting time. Except where a valid reason thereto has been informed to the Judge at C, valid reason may be losing a shoe etc

8. **Penalty Points.** The penalty points are deducted on each Judge's sheet from the total points obtained by the athlete. The following are considered as penalties for the deduction of points:

Penalties

All of the following are considered errors :

-Error of course

- First error -2 Points
- Second error -4 Points
- Third error - Elimination

Penalty (not cumulative) for following

-Entering the space around the arena with whip or

-Entering the dressage arena with whip or

-Not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the bell or

-Entering the arena before the sound of the bell (-2) or

-In the Freestyle, entering the arena after more than 20 seconds of music

For Freestyle tests deduction shall be:

First error -1% of possible total score

Second error -2% of possible total score

Third error - Elimination

The same scale as for Freestyle tests applies to Young Horses tests.

32.7.0 SCORE SHEETS

32.7.1 Judges' Score sheets shall be available to competitors after the final result of the competition has been announced.

32.7.2 In the event of an objection being lodged the applicable score sheets must be returned to the judges (see rule 03.0.0).

32.7.3 Judges' score sheets shall be completed, audited and signed prior to being handed to competitors as defined in rule 32.7.1.

32.7.4 It is the Judge's responsibility to ensure that each score sheet has his/her name or identification symbol stated on the sheet, that every movement has a mark, that errors of course penalties have been correctly recorded and that each sheet bears his/her signature. (See rule 32.6.7).

32.8.0 TIME

32.8.1 Only Freestyle tests are timed. The time shown on other test sheets is for information only.
When time limits are set for Freestyle etc. judging will cease when the time allowed plus 10 seconds has elapsed. (see Appendix DS/6)

32.9.0. RIDING OF TESTS

32.9.1. Salute: Competitors must take the reins in one hand at the salute. A man must raise his hat, whilst a lady must drop her hand in the salute to the judge. In the event of a chin strap being worn, men may salute in the same manner as ladies. A whip, if carried, will be held in the rein hand. Failure to comply with these requirements will be penalised by the deduction of two marks from those that would have been awarded for the movement. The deduction of the two marks is not counted as an "Error of Course" penalty. However, when riding FEI tests, failure to salute and take reins into one hand when saluting, will be counted as an "Error of Course".

32.9.2 Falls: In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be penalised by elimination.

32.9.3 Voice: The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking of the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault, involving the deduction of at least 2 marks from those that would have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

32.9.4 Resistance: Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds is penalized by elimination.

However, resistance that may endanger rider, horse, judges or the public will be penalized by elimination for safety reasons earlier than within 20 seconds.

32.9.5 Dismounting: A rider who dismounts in the arena, without a reason acceptable to the Jury, shall be Eliminated.

32.9.6 A horse leaving the Arena with all four feet during the test will incur the following penalty:

i Elimination:

(a) if the horse leaves a fully enclosed arena with a surround of a minimum of 25cm, or

(b) if the horse leaves an arena as described in (a) but open at A, at any point other than A.

ii No points for the current movement:

(a) if the horse leaves an arena at an opening at A, or

(b) if the horse leaves an arena, with a surround lower than 25cm, or

(c) if the horse leaves an arena that is not completely enclosed.

On completion of the test, the exit must be made at A in the manner in which the test determines.

32.9.7 Lameness:

i In a case of marked lameness, the President of the Jury informs the competitor that he /she is eliminated. There is no appeal against his decision.

ii If, however, there is any doubt as to the soundness of a horse, the competitor will be allowed to complete the test and any unevenness of pace will be penalised provided no sign of distress is evident.

32.9.8 Riding out of Order: See General Regulations rule 01.17.0. and 31.3.5

32.9.9 Commencement: It is recommended that the president of the ground jury allows the competitor an opportunity to ride twice around the arena before the bell is sounded. After the sound of the bell, the competitor must enter the arena as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail a penalty of -2. The same applies to a competitor who enters the arena at A before the signal has been given. The Judge at C is responsible to time this and to ring the bell at a point where the horse is close enough to A to comply with this.

32.9.10 Retirement: If a competitor retires from a test, he/she must inform the judge of this intention by raising a hand or saluting.

32.9.11 Broken tack: The Judge's discretion should be used concerning broken tack. The comfort of the horse and the safety of the rider should be the main concerns, but time-consuming repairs cannot be allowed. Assistance by a third party whether the competitor is mounted or dismounted may be authorised at the Judge's discretion.

32.9.12 Accuracy at markers: In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letters are positioned. In this case, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.

32.9.13 Extreme weather conditions : During extreme weather conditions or other extreme situations the President of the Ground Jury may ring the bell for interruption of the test. The affected rider should return to complete his test when conditions so permit. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test or commence from the point at which the interruption occurred. In either case the marks already given will not be changed. See 32.5.4

SECTION 33

Failure to comply with any part of Section 33 shall result in elimination.

33.1.0 SADDLERY AND DRESS

33.1.1 SADDLES

Dressage saddles which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps are compulsory from Elementary/ Medium level upward.

General purpose saddles may be used in the lower grades.

33.1.2 Numnahs or Saddle Cloths are permitted and should be neat and not larger than necessary. Gel, air, foam or Sheepskin pads may be used under saddles.

33.1.3 Saddle covers are NOT permitted. (e.g. Sheepskin or similar covering). See also rule 33.5.2.

33.1.4 Breastplates are permitted but may not be used for events run under FEI rules. Cruppers on ponies are permitted but may not be used for events run under FEI rules.

33.2.0 PERMITTED BRIDLES

33.2.1 Bridles shall be as per instruction on the official tests.

Padding is allowed on bridles both under the bridle and stitched into the leather.

33.2.2 PERMITTED BITS

All bits permitted by the FEI Dressage Rules are allowed depending on the test ridden. Bits or materials specifically disallowed by FEI will not be allowed.

(a) In addition any other bits illustrated in Appendix DS/4 which are not in the FEI Dressage Rules are permitted for non FEI classes. No other bits will be allowed.

(b) Bit guards are NOT permitted.

(c) The minimum diameter of snaffle bits at the bars of the horse's mouth has been fixed at 10 mm. This is measured either against the outer loose ring, or at the beginning of the radius on egg-butt and similar snaffles. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon must be such so as not to hurt the horse. Pelhams with connectors are allowed for Pony Rider Preliminary classes only.

(e) When using a double bridle the Bridoon and Curb bits must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber. Wrapping of bits and flexible rubber bits are not permitted. Lip strap and rubber or leather cover for curb chain is optional (see plates and captions).

(f) The lever arm of the curb bit is limited to 10cm (length below the mouthpiece). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.

g) It is acceptable that there will be variations in the manufacture of the examples, but the rule in regard to variations in manufacture should be interpreted with the intention that the welfare of the horse, together with the best schooling principles, should be the only consideration

33.2.3 NOSEBANDS

(a) Either a dropped noseband or a Cavesson as illustrated in Appendix DS/3 may be used with a snaffle bridle, but not both. A cavesson noseband, whether used with a snaffle or double Bridle, may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. The decision of the President of the Ground Jury shall be final.

(b) A Mexican noseband or Crossed/Flash noseband as illustrated in Appendix DS/3 is also permitted with a snaffle bridle.

33.3.0. WHIP/SPURS

33.3.1. Adults, Juniors and Pony Riders. In the Individual South African Championship, whips are not permitted, no matter what the level of test or classification of rider. In this instance the whip is to be dropped outside of the arena enclosure and horse and rider may not circle the arena carrying a whip before commencement of the test. Failure to do so will result in 2 penalty points being deducted. At Events below CN Status, FEI Dressage Tests may be ridden with a whip unless otherwise stated. Whip length may not exceed a total maximum length of 120cm

(including the tassle) and for Pony Riders total maximum length is 100cm (including the tassle). The use of one whip, as above, in the practice area is allowed at all events. Only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (standard length lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip (maximum1.20 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse.

33.3.2. Spurs are allowed in all classes and 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 rider's boot. The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be smooth and free to rotate. See Appendix DS/3 for rowels.

Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs are allowed

("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are allowed.

Rowels on spurs are not permitted for Pony Riders.

Gooseneck spurs are permitted.

33.4.0 IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Identification. Each horse keeps the same identification number throughout the event as provided by the Organizing Committee upon arrival. It is compulsory that this number be worn always by the horse whenever it leaves the stables, so that it may be identified by all officials including the stewards. Failure to display this identification number incurs first a warning and, in case of a repeated offence, a fine will be imposed on the rider by the Ground Jury or the Appeal Committee according to FEI legal procedure. This number will always be displayed on the left side.

33.5.0 PROHIBITED SADDLERY IN THE ARENA

33.5.1 i In addition to the items of saddlery and/or equipment described as permitted or prohibited under Rules 33.1.1 to 33.3.2, the following items of saddlery and/or equipment are listed as prohibited.

Martingales, bit guards and any kind of gadget (such as bearing, side, running or balancing rein etc) any kind of boots or bandages and any form of blinkers, including earmuffs and any others. Breastplates and neckstraps are allowed.

ii Notwithstanding that contained in 33.4.1 (i) the President of the Jury may authorise the strapping up of a wound with elastoplast or similar provided he

is satisfied that such strapping up in no way affects the soundness of the horse.

iii Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items such as ribbons or flowers etc in the tail is strictly forbidden. Normal plaiting of the horse's mane or tail, however, is allowed. False tails are permitted only with prior permission from the President of the Ground Jury. (In an official FEI competition, permission from the FEI must be obtained.) False tails may have no metal parts.

iv Fly hoods will be permitted solely in order to protect horses from insects. These will be permitted in extreme cases only and at the discretion of the President of the Ground Jury. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes.

v **Conditions of participation for Para-equestrian athletes**: Following approval by the Technical Dressage Committee, athletes are allowed to compete in SANEF Dressage Competitions using compensatory aids according to their respective degree of disability as defined by the SANEF / FEI PE ID card. Any such applications for participation in SANEF Dressage events must be approved by the Technical Dressage Committee prior to entering such competitions. Each case will be considered individually. The athlete must carry the PE ID Card with them at all times when in competition and a copy of this card must be submitted, with the entry form, in order to be presented to the judge of the competition.

33.6.0 EXERCISING AND/OR WARMING UP AT AN EVENT

33.6.1 While exercising any horse at a recognised event, only a permitted snaffle or simple double bridle may be used. Ponies competing in preliminary classes may be ridden in a pelham with rein connectors. See Appendices DS/4 and 5 for description of bits.

33.6.2 Whilst exercising, boots, bandages, running martingales, breastplates and neck straps are permitted to be worn. Side reins may be used ONLY when lungeing (un-ridden) but NOT bearing, running or balancing reins of any kind, neither are lunge lines attached from girth or any part of the saddle or surcingle permitted (i.e. Only one lunge line is allowed). Single direct side reins or double sliding reins (triangle/dreieck zgel) are permitted (see appendix DS/3). Rainproof saddle covers may be used to protect saddles from rain. The use of more than one whip anywhere on the show grounds shall not be permitted.

Lungeing may only be done in areas not designated for riding.

33.6.3 Exercising or warming up in anything other than the permitted saddlery shall entail elimination of both horse and rider from the event.

33.6.4 Pony Riders when mounted, must wear protective headgear secured by a three point harness, at all times.

33.7.0 CHECKING SADDLERY

33.7.1 It is recommended that a steward is appointed to check saddlery of each horse immediately after it completes the test, except at National Status Shows where it will be compulsory. Any discrepancies will entail immediate elimination. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. It is recommended that the steward wears surgical/protective gloves for this function which are sanitised or exchanged between each horse.

33.8.0 DRESS AT ALL RECOGNISED EVENTS

See Appendix 5.

33.9.0 SCHOOLING OF HORSES AT NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, FEI EVENTS & THE SANEF COMPETITION.

33.9.1 On no account and under penalty of disqualification, may any horse take part in any class at a National Championship as defined in appendix GR/C of the General Regulations, the SANEF Competition or events run under FEI rules, which has been schooled under saddle by anyone other than the competitor concerned or competitors (in event of more than one rider or substitution), from the start of the day of the event until after the last class in which that horse is entered. It should be noted that the FEI Challenge has special rules in this regard.

SECTION 34

1.0 GRADING

34.1.1. Grades shall be known as:

Adult Competitions	N	E	EM	M	ADV
Junior Competitions	N	E	EM	M	ADV
Pony Rider Competitions	PRN	PRE	PREM	PRM	

34.1.2 A horse shall be upgraded when it has accumulated the number of points as agreed and laid down under rule 34.1.3.

34.1.3 All applications for grade change must be made in writing:

i. A Grade N horse or PRN pony may be upgraded when it has accumulated a minimum of 10 points gained in N tests or in any higher tests in which it is eligible to compete. A Grade N horse or PRN Pony shall be upgraded when it has accumulated a maximum of 100 points as described above.

ii. A Grade E horse or PRE Pony may be upgraded when it has accumulated a minimum of 10 points gained in E or in any higher tests in which it is eligible to compete. A Grade E, JE horse or PRE pony shall be upgraded when it has accumulated a maximum of 100 points as described above.

iii. A Grade EM, horse or PREM pony may be upgraded when it has accumulated a minimum of 10 points gained in any EM test or in any higher tests in which it is eligible to compete. A Grade EM, horse or PREM pony shall be upgraded when it has accumulated a maximum of 100 points as described above.

iv. A Grade M, horse or PRM may be upgraded when it has accumulated a minimum of 10 points gained in Medium tests or in any higher tests in which it is eligible to compete. A Grade M horse or PRM pony shall be upgraded when it has accumulated a maximum of 100 points as described above.

v. Points gained by Grade Adv horses in Advanced tests and official FEI tests will be recorded for future grading purposes. Points gained by PRM ponies will be recorded for future grading purposes

vi. However, a horse or pony that has accumulated 100 points as described above may, on written request of the registered owner to and with the approval of the Provincial Body, remain in its present grade for a further year. Re-application to remain in the same grade must be made in writing before 1 August each year.

34.1.4 GRADING OF TESTS

All tests currently recognised as SANEF, FEI or FEI World Dressage Challenge tests shall be graded, also Freestyles, but excluding Preliminary tests,, Young Horse Tests, Derby or special tests.

34.1.5 COMPETING IN MORE THAN ONE GRADE

i. In addition to competing in its own grade, unless otherwise stated in the schedule, a horse may compete in one grade higher than that in which it is registered. Any points gained will be recorded in the horse's own grade.

ii. A horse may compete in one grade lower than that in which it is registered. It will score 95% of the score achieved unless otherwise stated in the schedule and will receive no grading points. Under these circumstances the entries will be included in the total number of the starters used to establish pools and the number of prizes.

iii. In all championship classes horses may only compete in the grade in which they are currently registered, despite being eligible to compete in certain qualifying classes.

34.1.6 A horse:

i. may not compete in more than two grades at any one event unless otherwise provided for in the schedule

ii. may not compete in more than two tests of any grade per day including a freestyle up to Advanced level

iii. may only compete in one FEI test at Prix St George level and above per day. No other tests, if it is a FEI Event, may be ridden on the same day.

34.2.0 GRADING POINTS

34.2.1 Points shall be awarded on the following basis irrespective of the number of starters or prizes awarded:

Percentage attained in test	Points Awarded
55% and under 60%	1
60% and under 65%	2
65% and under 70%	3
70% and under 75%	4
75% and above	5

34.3.0 POINTS FOR UP-GRADING

34.3.1 Grading points shall be awarded as specified in rule 34.2.1 provided the requirements of rules 32.5.0 and 32.6.0 are met.

34.3.2 Points obtained towards up-grading shall only apply from the end of the show in which they are attained.

34.4.0 DOWNGRADING

34.4.1 On written application by the registered owner/guardian, and with the consent of the Provincial Body concerned, a horse may be downgraded one grade without points, provided that this down grading shall not be permitted more than once in each registration year.

34.5.0 DOWNGRADING ON CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP AND/OR RIDER

This section is designed to assist the young, as well as inexperienced, rider on a new horse to compete at the rider's level of competency. It will allow riders to compete on "schoolmasters" and thereby learn and improve their own standards.

34.5.1 In the event of a change of ownership of a horse (or pony) a written application signed by the new owner may be made to the Provincial Body to down grade the horse to any grade lower than that in which it is currently registered. The application must be made simultaneously with the registration of the change of ownership. The Provincial Body at its discretion and based on the findings of the Provincial Body's Dressage Committee shall grant or disallow the downgrading, on the understanding that the horse may only be ridden by the new owner in this grade.

34.5.2 In the event of the change of the rider of a horse (or pony) a written application signed by the registered owner may be made to the Provincial Body to down grade the horse to any grade lower than that in which it is presently registered. The Provincial Body at its discretion and based on the findings of an investigation by the Provincial Body's Dressage Committee shall grant or disallow the downgrading.

34.5.3 A horse that is downgraded in terms of 34.5.1 or 34.5.2 will be downgraded without points in that grade.

34.5.4 In the context of downgrading in terms of 34.5.1 or 34.5.2 a written application may be made for the cancellation of all points attained by a novice horse.

34.5.5 If the downgrading is disallowed by the Provincial Body, the registered owner may appeal to the Chairman of the Provincial Body's Dressage Committee, who will appoint an arbiter to assess and make a recommendation, which shall be binding.

34.5.6 There may not be more than one downgrading in terms of 34.5.1, 34.5.2 or 34.5.4 within a period of twelve months after the reclassification has been granted.

34.6.0 RECLASSIFICATION TO HIGHER AGE GROUP

This section is no longer relevant as horses are not classified. Horses merely retain their grade and point standings.

34.7.0 GRADING OF IMPORTED HORSES

34.7.1 On importation of a horse, a record of that horse's achievement is to be provided by the owner in support of the grade into which the horse is to be placed. In the absence of a performance record, the bona fide rider/owner may select the grade. Where the grade chosen proves to be inappropriate then the horse/rider combination must be assessed by an evaluation panel appointed by the Dressage Technical Committee. In the event of a change of the bona fide rider within a period of two years, the new combination of horse and rider may be reassessed in the same manner.

34.8.0 **PONIES/HORSES DEFINITION**

34.8.1 Ponies are ponies as defined in the General Regulations.
Horses measuring 1.50 and under may not be ridden in Junior or Adult Derby type classes where riders are required to change horses.

34.8.2 **AGE OF HORSES/PONIES**

Horses may take part provided they are aged over 4 years below Prix St George level, 7 years and over Prix St George and Intermediate level and 8 years and over for Grand Prix including Grand Prix Special + Grand Prix Freestyle Test, The age is counted 1st August for Southern Hemisphere. Young horse tests are open to 4 to 7 year old horses.

34.8.3 **WEIGHT**

Whilst there are no weight limits/restrictions, it is in the best interest of the horse that the weight of the rider should be appropriate for the horse/pony's carrying capacity (which is determined by conformation, fitness, condition and age of the individual horse or pony).

34.8.4 **SAFETY**

Where a horse/pony qualifies for a derby type competition, in which riders change horses/ponies, the onus is on the owner to ensure the reliability and safety of the horses. The entry of a horse which is known to be unreliable and which may impede the safety of any of the qualifying riders is not allowed. Such horses must be withdrawn from the final and the next best horse/rider combination will qualify.

SECTION 37

THE ADULT, YOUNG RIDER, JUNIOR AND PONY RIDER INDIVIDUAL DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA

37.1.0 CROSS REFERENCE AND APPLICATION

37.1.1 These rules shall be read in conjunction with, and are supplementary to the General Rules applying to all South African Individual National Championships. (see Section 04 of the General Regulations).

37.1.2 No horse/pony may compete in more than one National Dressage Championship in a calendar year unless it is the same horse/rider or pony/rider combination.

37.2.0 QUALIFICATION OF RIDERS

37.2.1 In the Adult Championship riders shall be Adults as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.4.

37.2.2 In the Young Rider Championship, riders shall be Young Riders as defined in the General Regulation 01.9.3.

37.2.3 In the Junior Championship riders, shall be Juniors as defined in the General Regulation 01.9.2.

37.2.3.1 In the Pony Rider Championship riders, shall be Pony Riders as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.1.

37.2.4 Only riders from the FEI Group IX countries may participate at the event.

37.3.0 QUALIFICATION OF HORSES

37.3.1 In the Adult National Championship entries shall be restricted to Grade Adv horses.

37.3.2 In the Young Rider, Junior and Pony Rider Championships entries shall be restricted to the top qualified 15 competitors, and restricted to Horses/Ponies graded E or PRE or above.

37.3.3 Two qualifying competitions must be staged for this purpose at the Championship Event (see rule 37.5.1). The system for obtaining points in the two qualifying competitions shall be as follows: Irrespective of the number of competitors in the competition the horse and rider placed first shall receive 20 points, the second 19 points, the third 18 points and so on. Ties shall be awarded full points. In the event of a tie of the total qualifying points for the 15th place, then all those tying for this place shall be allowed to compete in the Championship. The horse and rider combination must be the same for the qualifying competitions and the Championship. Competitors are not compelled to compete in both qualifying competitions but must compete in at least one qualifier and/or one other class. Where qualifying competitions are split into more than one pool, all pools must be judged by the same jury. The jury must be in accordance with 37.9.0.

37.4.0 ENTRIES (See General Regulations 04.8.0)

37.4.1 The Championships shall not be classified as official, nor the trophy and medals awarded unless at least 3 starters for all Individual Championships.

37.4.2 Entry Forms. (See General Regulation 04.9.0).

37.5.0 COMPETITIONS PRIOR TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

37.5.1 The organising committee staging the Adult, Young Rider, Junior or Pony Rider National Dressage Championship shall include in their programme, prior to that Championship, at least two other dressage competitions for which horses entered in the Championship shall be eligible to compete. For Advanced horses one warm-up competition is sufficient. Where qualification is necessary, two of these competitions shall be qualifying competitions (see rule 37.3.3).

37.6.0 PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS

37.6.1 (a) Adult Dressage Championship:

Prize money of at least R2000,00 for the Individual Championship shall be provided by the organising committee staging the Championship.

(b) Young Rider Dressage Championship:

Prize money of at least R1000,00 for the Individual Championship shall be provided by the organising committee staging the Championship

(c) Junior Dressage Championship:

Prize money of at least R1000,00 for the Individual Championship shall be provided by the organising committee staging the Championship.

(d) Pony Rider Dressage Championship:

Prize money of at least R1000,00 for the Individual Championship shall be provided by the organising committee staging the Championship

(e) Adult Freestyle Individual Championship:

Prize money of at least R2000,00 for the Individual Championship shall be provided by the organising committee staging the Championship

37.6.2 In addition to the trophy and medals awarded by the Federation (General Regulations 04.6.0 and 04.7.0), other tokens and prize money may be awarded by the Organising Committee.

37.7.0 THE TEST

37.7.1 The test shall be of the required standard and approved by the National Dressage Committee and shall be ridden from memory and without a whip even though stated to the contrary on the test. (See rule 32.2.1).

37.7.2.1 The Organising Committee, in conjunction with their Provincial Body, shall advise all Provincial Bodies of the reference number of the Test/s which shall be ridden or make copies of the Tests available to intending competitors, with the Show Schedule.

37.8.0 THE ARENA

37.8.1 See rule 32.3.0. An adequate practice area with a similar surface must be provided and a properly marked and laid out arena must be available.

37.9.0 THE JURY (See also rule 32.4.0 and Appendix 8).

37.9.1 (a) Adult Championship. The Jury shall consist of a minimum of three but ideally five judges, three of which must be from the National "A" Panel or above and the remaining two from the National "B" Panel. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should each reside in different provinces.

(b) Young Rider, Junior and Pony Rider Championship. The jury shall consist of a minimum of three but ideally five judges from the National “A” or “B” Panels or above. At least 2 judges should be from the National A Panel. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should each reside in different provinces.

(c) Visiting foreign judge/s may replace a National "A" Panel or "B" Panel judge/s provided permission is first obtained from the Technical Dressage Committee. All such applications should be addressed to the National Chairman of Dressage. See Appendix DS/7.

37.10.0 SADDLERY

37.10.1 As per rule 33.1.0, only spurs are permitted.

37.10.2 The organising committee shall appoint a qualified steward to check saddlery and bits, on completion of the test.

37.11.0 SUBSTITUTIONS (See General Regulation 01.15.0)

37.12.0 ORDER OF RIDING IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS

37.12.1 The Organising Committee, in the presence of the SANEF Representative shall draw the order of riding for the Championship Classes. Qualifying results may be used to decide the order of riding with a draw in groups of 5.

37.13.0 TIES FOR FIRST PLACE ONLY

37.13.1 In the event of equality of total marks for first place in the Adult, Young Rider, Junior and Pony Rider Championships, the collective marks should be added together and the horse with the higher collective marks shall be placed first. If the total collective marks are also equal, the horses concerned shall be given first place.

SECTION 38

38.1.0 THE ADULT, YOUNG RIDER, JUNIOR AND PONY RIDER NATIONAL DRESSAGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA

38.1.1 CROSS REFERENCE AND APPLICATION

These rules shall be read in conjunction with, and are supplementary to the General Regulations applying to all South African National Championships. (See Section 04).

38.2.0 STAGING OF CHAMPIONSHIP

38.2.1 The National Dressage Team Championships of South Africa may be staged at the same Event, and concurrently with, the respective Individual Dressage Championships of South Africa, or as a separate event.

38.3.0 QUALIFICATION OF RIDER (See also General Regulation 04.5.0)

38.3.1.1 In the Adult Championship riders shall be Adults as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.4.

38.3.1.2 In the Young Rider Championship riders shall be Young Riders as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.3.

38.3.1.3 In the Junior Championship riders shall be Juniors as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.2.

38.3.4 In the Pony Rider Championship riders shall be Pony Riders as defined in the General Regulations 01.9.1.

38.3.5 Riders shall be members of the regional body that they are to represent as defined in the General Regulations 00.3.0.

38.4.0 QUALIFICATION OF HORSES

38.4.1 In the Adult National Team Championship horses shall not be graded Novice.

38.4.2 In the Young Riders Junior and Pony Rider National Team Championship horses may be any grade.

38.4.3 Horses shall be registered with that Provincial Body that they are to represent.

38.4.4 Horses nominated by Provincial Bodies shall be obliged to enter but not necessarily compete in at least one other dressage competition in the Event at which the Championship is being held.

38.5.0 TEAM ENTRIES, NOMINATIONS, FINAL SELECTION (see General Regulation 04.11)

38.5.1 Each Provincial Body shall enter only one team.

SANEF may invite FEI Group IX Federations to participate in the National Team Championships where applicable on terms and conditions as laid down by SANEF from time to time.

38.5.2 The Championship will be regarded as official, provided that at least two teams participate.

38.5.3 Each team (riders and horses) shall be selected by the Provincial Body whose area of jurisdiction it will represent.

38.6.0 ORDER IN WHICH TEAMS WILL START (See General Regulations 01.14.2).

38.6.1 **SUBSTITUTIONS** (See General Regulations 01.15.7).

38.7.0 THE TEST

38.7.1 The Test shall be approved by at least three members of the National Dressage Committee and may be called.

38.7.2 The Organising Committee, in conjunction with their Provincial Body, shall advise all Provincial Bodies of the reference number of Test/s which shall be ridden, or shall make copies of the Test/s available to intending competitors with the show schedule.

38.8.0 COMPETITIONS PRIOR TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

38.8.1 The Organising Committee staging the Adult, Young Rider, Junior or Pony Rider National Dressage Team Championships of South Africa shall include in their programme at least one other competition in which horses entered for the Team Championship shall be eligible to compete prior to that Championship.

38.9.0 TROPHIES, AWARDS AND PRIZE MONEY (See General Regulations 04.6.0 and 04.7.0).

38.10.0 THE ARENA

38.10.1 See rule 32.3.0. An adequate practice arena with a similar surface must be provided. This arena should be correctly marked and laid out.

SECTION 39

Article 401

OBJECT AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DRESSAGE

a. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

These qualities are revealed by:

- The freedom and regularity of the paces.
- The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements
- The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion.
- The acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/throughness (Durchlässigkeit) without any tension or resistance.

2 The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the athlete, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

3. The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular and active. The canter is united, light and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the athlete and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.

4 By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralysing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

5 In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be “on the bit”. A horse is said to be “on the bit” when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft submissive contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the athlete.

6 Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these paces.

7 The regularity of the paces is fundamental to dressage.

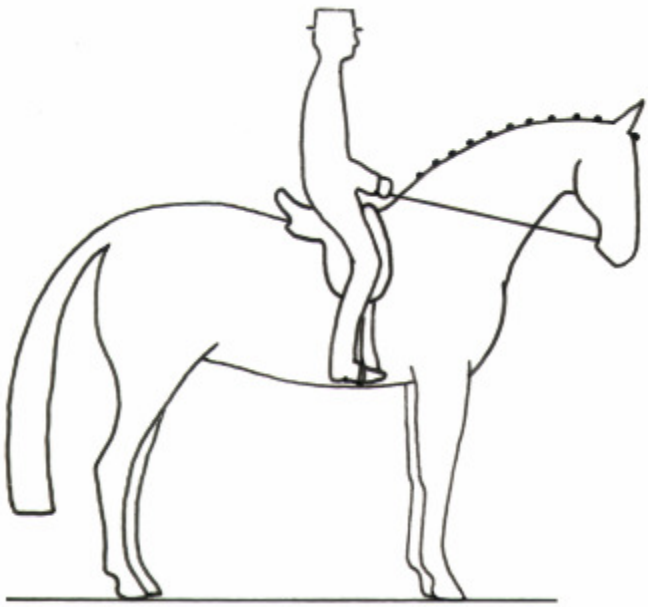
Article 402

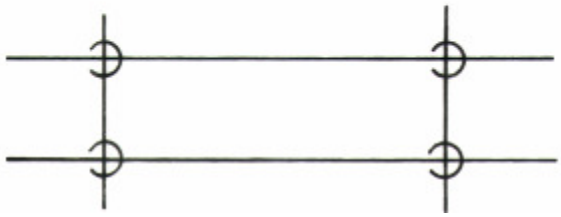
THE HALT

1 At the halt the horse should stand attentive, engaged, motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll as the highest point and the noseline slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining "on the bit" and maintaining a light and soft contact with the athlete's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the athlete.

2 The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the athlete, driving the horse towards a softly closed hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place. The halt is prepared by a series of half-halts (see transitions).

3 The quality of the paces before and after the halt is an integral part of the assessment.





Article 403

THE WALK

1 The walk is a marching pace in a regular and well-marked four time beat with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements.

2 When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace.

3 The following walks are recognised: Medium walk, Collected walk, Extended walk and Free walk. There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and overtracking in these variations.

3.1 Medium walk

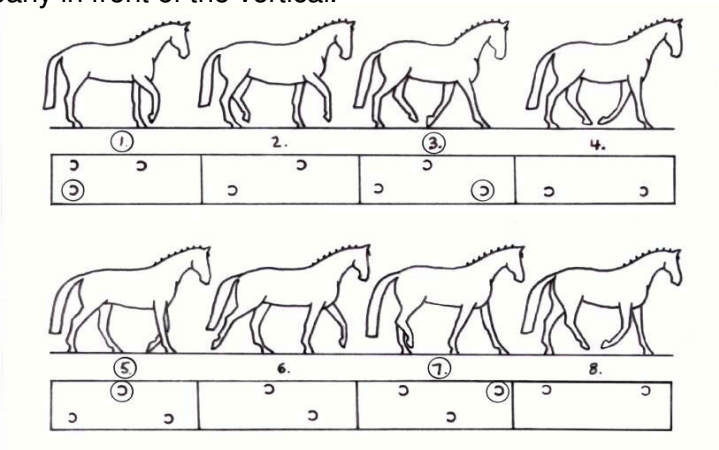
A clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining "on the bit", walks energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The athlete maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the head and neck.

3.2 Collected walk

The horse, remains "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

3.3 Extended walk

The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The athlete allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.



The walk is a pace in four-beat rhythm with eight phases (numbers in circles indicate the beat).

3.5 Stretching on a long rein

This exercise gives a clear impression of the "throughness" of the horse and proves the balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation. In order to execute the exercise "stretching on a long rein" correctly, the rider must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward. As the neck stretches forwards and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder. An elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained. The pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hindlegs well engaged. During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll.

Article 404

THE TROT

1 The trot is a two-beat pace of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.

2 The trot should show free, active and regular steps.

3. The quality of the trot is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in both collection and extension. This quality originates from a supple back and well-engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance with all variations of the trot.

4. The following trots are recognised: Working trot, Lengthening of Steps, Collected trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.

5. All trot work is executed “sitting”, unless otherwise indicated in the test.

4.1 Working trot

This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse’s training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows proper balance and, remaining “on the bit”, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

4.2 Lengthening of steps

In the test for four-year-old horses "lengthening of steps" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse’s training is not developed enough for medium trot.

4.3 Collected trot

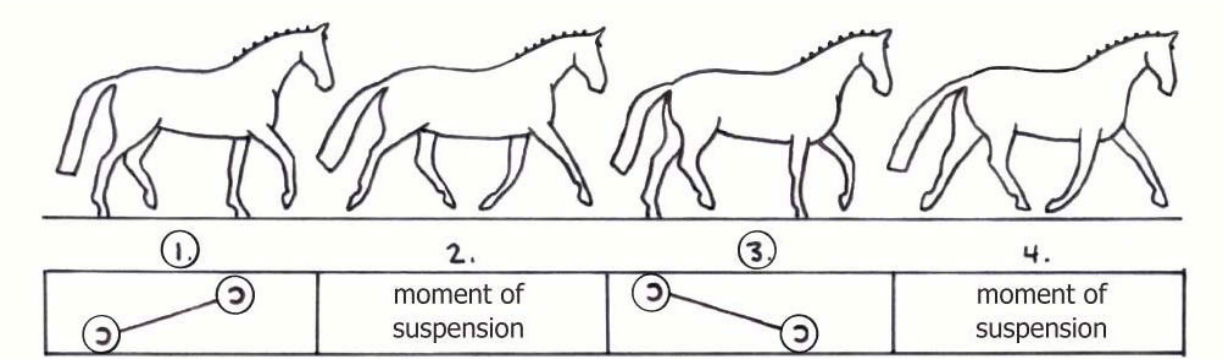
The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well-engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. Although the horse’s steps are shorter than in the other trots, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

4.4 Medium trot

This is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to the extended trot, but "rounder" than the latter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

4.5 Extended trot

The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the steps are lengthened to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame and to gain ground whilst controlling the poll. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should reach equally forward in the moment of extension. The whole movement should be well-balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.



(Numbers in circles indicate the beat)

Article 405

THE CANTER

1 The canter is a three-beat pace where, in canter to the right, for example, the footfall is as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.

2 The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation.

3 The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action – and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.

4 The following canters are recognised: Working canter, lengthening of strides, Collected canter, Medium canter and Extended canter.

4.1 Working canter

This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while remaining "on the bit", and goes forward with even, light and active strides and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

4.2 Lengthening of strides

In the test for 4-year-old horses "lengthening of strides" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.

4.3 Collected canter

The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well-engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility thus demonstrating self carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other canters, without losing elasticity and cadence.

4.4 Medium canter

This is a pace between the working and the extended canter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and
working canter, and at the same time allows the horse, to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.

4.5 Extended canter

The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the strides are lengthened to the utmost. The horse remains calm, light and straight as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll and to gain ground. The whole movement should be well-balanced and the transition to collected canter should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

4.6 Counter–canter

The counter canter is a balancing and straightening movement that must be executed in collection. The horse canters in correct sequence with the outside foreleg leading with positioning to the side of the leading leg. The foreleg should be aligned to the same track as the hind leg.

4.7 Simple change of leg at the canter

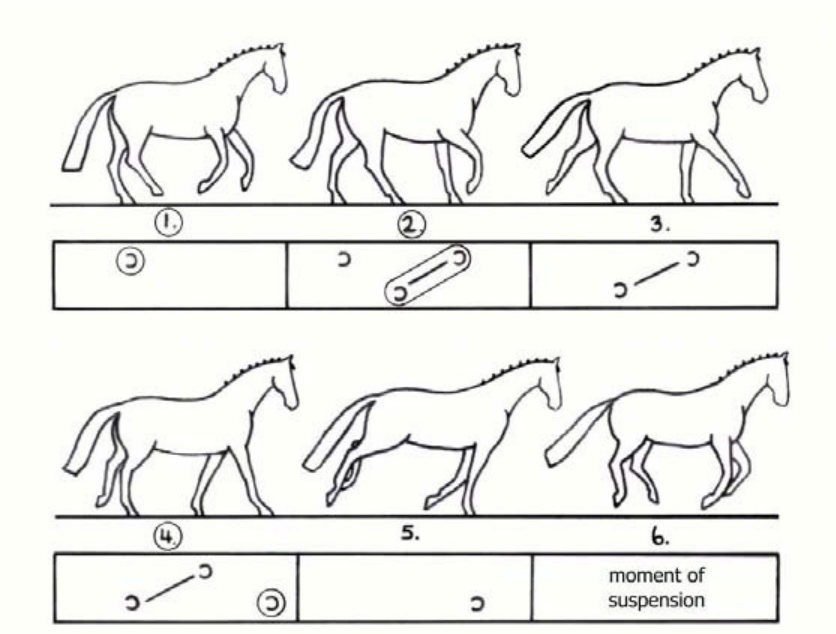
This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with three to five clearly defined steps, an immediate transition is made into the other canter lead.

4.8 Flying change of leg

The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The aids should be precise and unobtrusive.

Flying changes of leg can also be executed in series at every 4th, 3rd, 2nd or at every stride. The horse, even in the series, remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness, fluency and groundcover of the flying changes in series, enough impulsion must be maintained.

Aims of the horse



The canter is a pace in three-beat rhythm with six phases

Article 406

REINBACK

1 Rein back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hindlegs.

2 During the entire exercise, the horse should remain “on the bit”, maintaining its desire to move forward.

3 Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults.

5 The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square halt or move forward in the required pace immediately. In tests where a rein back of one horse’s length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.

6 Reinback series (Schaukel) is a combination of two rein backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps.

Article 407

THE TRANSITIONS

The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be exactly performed at the prescribed marker. The cadence (except in walk) should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts. The transitions within the paces must be clearly defined while maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm, and maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from passage to piaffe or vice versa.

Article 408

THE HALF HALTS

Every movement or transition should be invisibly prepared by barely perceptible half halts. The half halt is an almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hands of the athlete, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of the movements or transitions to lower and higher paces. By shifting slightly more weight onto the horse’s hindquarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are improved for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse’s balance as a whole.

Article 409

THE CHANGES OF DIRECTIONS

1 At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line it follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the athlete, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.

2. Changes of directions can be executed in the following ways:

a) Right-angled turn including riding through the corner (one quarter of a volte of approx. 6 metres).
b) Short and long diagonal.
c) Half voltes and half circles with change of rein
d) Half pirouettes and turn on the haunches.
e) Serpentine loops.
f) Counter-changes of hand (in zig-zag).* The horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.

* *Zig-zag: A movement containing more than two half-passes with changes of direction.*

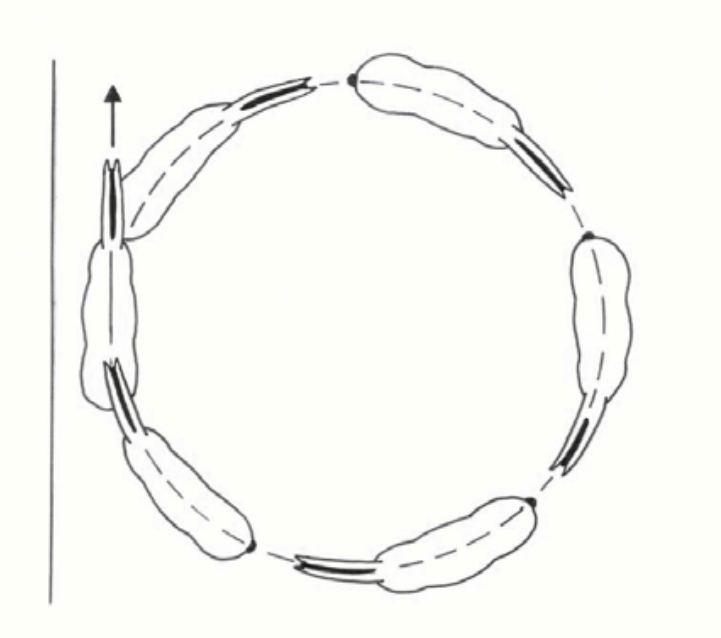
Article 410

THE FIGURES

The figures asked in dressage tests are the voltes, the serpentines and the figures of eight.

1 Volte

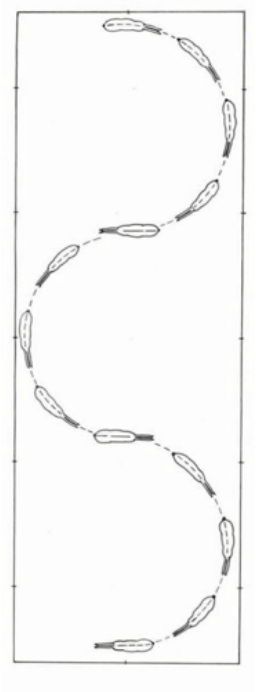
The volte is a circle of 6, 8 or 10 metres in diameter. If larger than 10 metres it is a circle.



2 Serpentine

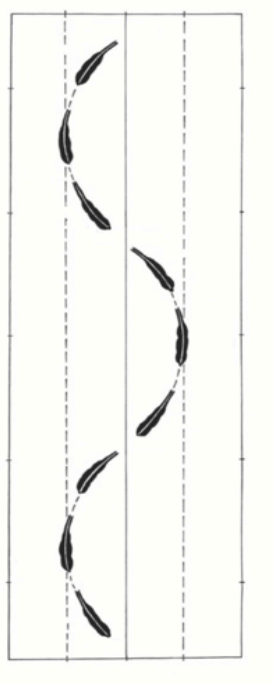
The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centreline, the horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length. Serpentines with one loop on the long side of the arena are executed with 5-metre or 10-metre distance from the track (b). Serpentines around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c).

a)



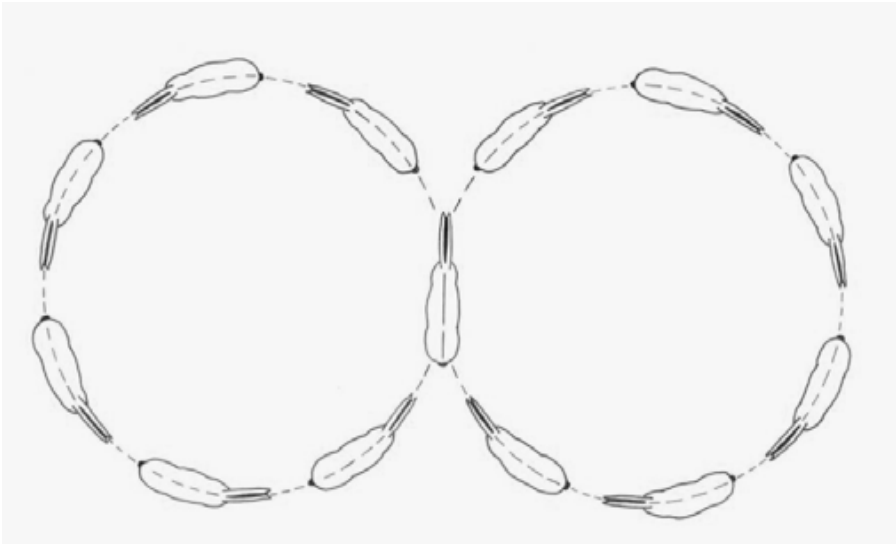
b)

c)



3 **Figure of eight**

This figure consists of two voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The athlete should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



Article 411

LEG-YIELDING

1 The aim of leg yielding: To demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse.

2 Leg-yielding is performed in working trot in FEI competitions. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the athlete is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. Leg-yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced shoulder-in movement, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of its paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of its movements. Leg yielding can be performed “on the diagonal” in which case the horse should be as nearly as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. It can also be performed “along the wall” in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which he is moving.

Article 412

LATERAL MOVEMENTS

1 The main aim of lateral movements – except leg-yielding - is to develop and increase the engagement of the hindquarters and thereby also the collection.

2 In all lateral movements - shoulder-in, travers, renvers, and half-pass, the horse is slightly bent and moves on different tracks.

3 The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it does not impair the rhythm, the balance and fluency of the movement.

4 In the lateral movements, the pace should remain free and regular, maintaining a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost because of the athlete's preoccupation with bending the horse and pushing it sideways.

5 **Shoulder-in**
The shoulder-in is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the athlete maintaining engagement and cadence and a constant angle of approx. 30 degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside foreleg, with the lowering of the inside hip. The horse is bent away from the direction in which it is moving.

6 **Travers**
Travers can be performed in collected trot or collected canter. The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the athlete but with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. A constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown (from the front and from behind one sees four tracks). The forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving.

To start the travers, the quarters must leave the track or, after a corner or circle, are not brought back onto the track. At the end of the travers, the quarters are brought back on the track (without any counter-flexion of the poll/neck) as one would finish a circle. Aims of travers: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a straight line and a correct bend. Front and hind legs are crossing, balance and cadence are maintained.

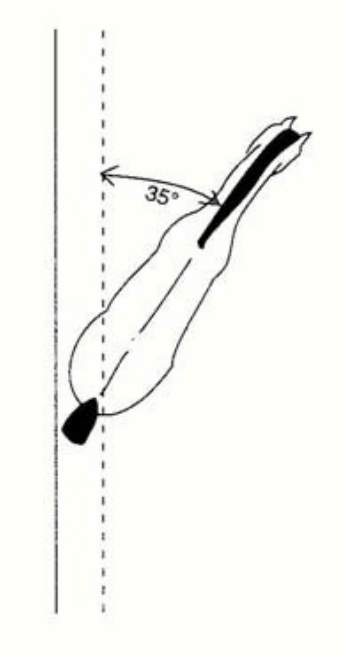
7 **Renvers**
Renvers is the inverse movement in relation to travers. The hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward. To finish the renvers the forehand is aligned with the quarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to the travers are applicable to the renvers. The horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the athlete. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving.

Aims of renvers: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a straight line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.

8 **Half pass**

Half-pass is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. It can be performed in collected trot (and in passage in a freestyle) or collected canter. The horse should be slightly bent around the inside leg of the athlete and in the direction in which it is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters. In the trot, the outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. In the canter, the movement is performed in a series of forward/sideways strides.

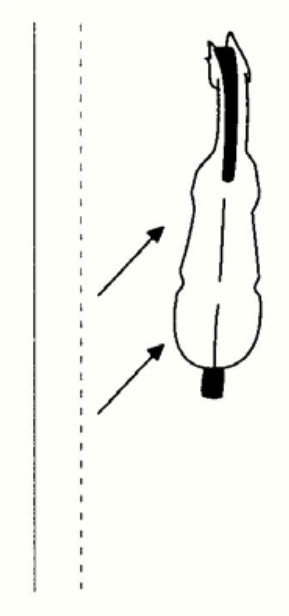
Aims of half-pass in trot: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.



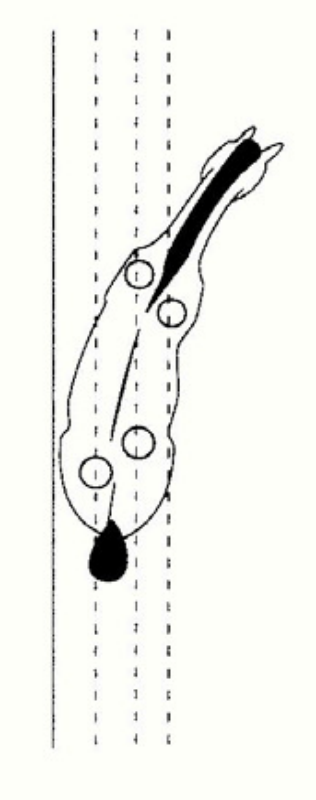
n canter: To both demonstrate and develop the collection and
r by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of
ess and submission to the bend.

al

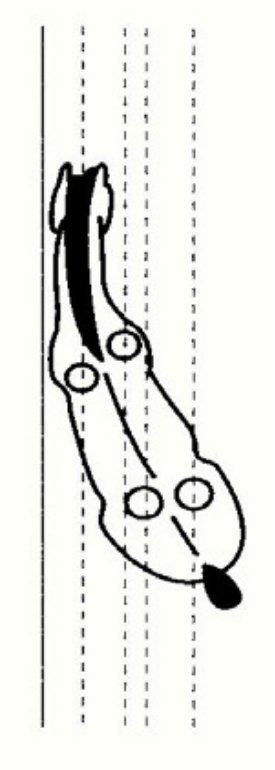
Leg yielding along the wall



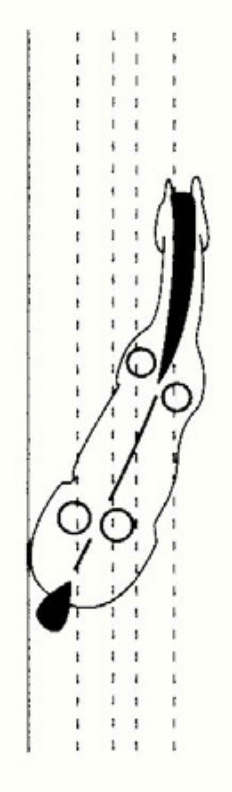
Shoulder in



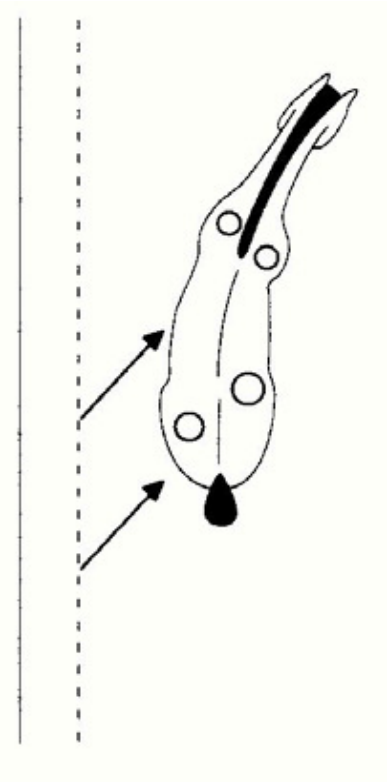
Travers



Renvers



Half-Pass



Article 413

THE PIROUETTE, THE HALF-PIROUETTE AND TURN ON THE HAUNCHES

1 **The Pirouette (half-pirouette)**
is a turn of 360 degrees (180 degrees) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving around the haunches.

2 Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) are usually carried out at collected walk or canter, but can also be executed at piaffe.

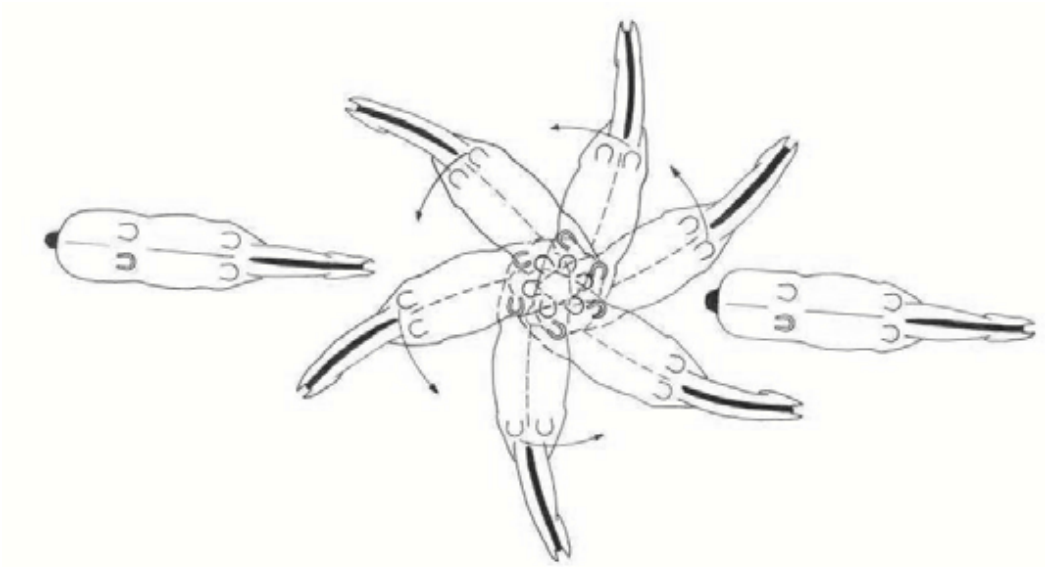
3 At the pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot. The inside hind leg describes a circle as small as possible.

4 At whatever pace the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed, the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning, remaining "on the bit" with a light contact, turning smoothly around, and maintaining sequence and timing of footfalls of that pace. The poll remains the highest point during the entire movement.

5 During the pirouettes (half-pirouettes), the horse should maintain its activity (walk also included) and never move backwards or sideways.

6 In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the athlete should maintain lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The horse's hindquarters are well engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints. An integral part of the movement is the quality of the canter strides before and after the pirouette. The strides should show an increased activity and collection before the pirouette and the balance should be maintained at the end of the pirouette.

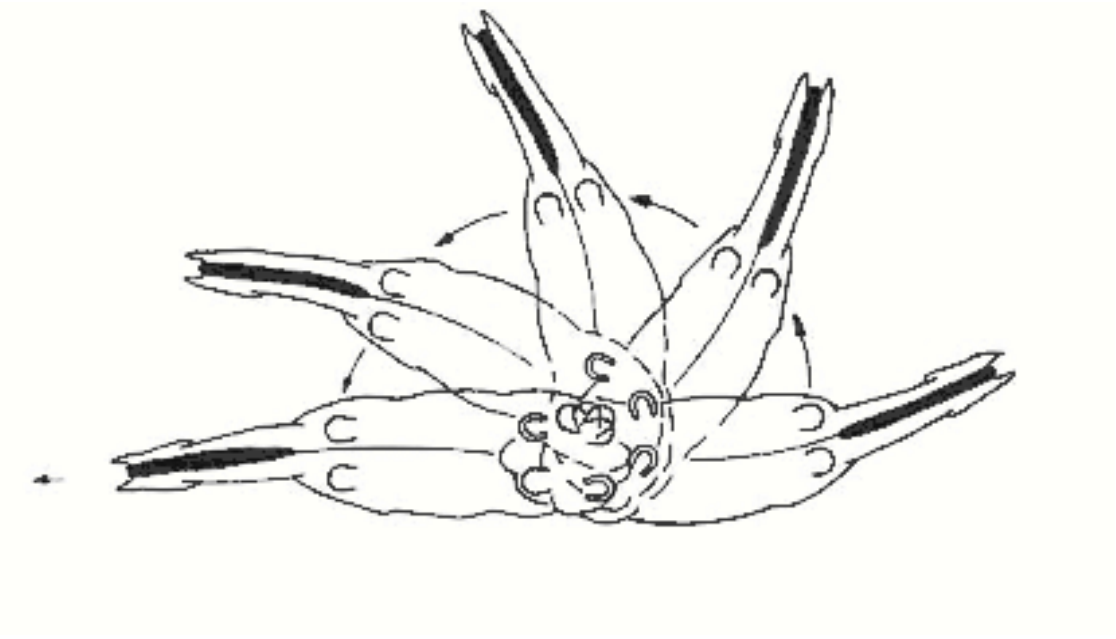
Aims of the pirouette and half-pirouette in canter: To demonstrate the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg on a small radius, slightly bent in the direction of the turn while maintaining the activity and the clarity of the canter, the straightness and the balance before and after the figure and clear canter strides during the turn. In the pirouette or half-pirouette in canter, the judges should be able to recognize a real canter stride although the feet of the diagonal – inside hind leg, outside front leg – are not touching the ground simultaneously.



Pirouette and half-pirouette in canter

7 The quality of the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness and regularity, and the precision and smoothness of the entrance and exit. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) in canter should be executed in six to eight strides – full pirouettes – and three to four strides – half-pirouette.

8 **Half-pirouettes in walk**
(180 degrees) are executed out of collected walk with the collection being maintained throughout the exercise. When the horse exits the half-pirouette it returns to the initial track without crossing the hind legs.



Half-pirouette in walk

9 **Turn on the haunches from walk.**
For younger horses that are still not able to show collected walk the "turn on the haunches" is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The "turn on the haunches" is executed out of medium walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The horse does not halt before or after the turn. The "turn on the haunches" can be executed on a larger radius (approx. ½m) than the pirouette in walk, but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same.

10 **Turn on the haunches from halt to halt**
(180 degrees). To maintain the forward tendency of the movement one or two forward steps at the beginning of the turn are permitted. The same criteria apply as for the turn on the haunches from walk.

Article 414

THE PASSAGE

1 **Passage** is a measured, very collected, elevated and cadenced trot. It is characterised by a pronounced engagement of the hindquarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.

2 In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.

3 The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the nose line close to the vertical. The horse should remain light, and soft "on the bit" without altering the cadence. The impulsion remains lively and pronounced.

4 Irregular steps with the hind or front legs, swinging the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, as well as jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs, dragging the hind legs or double beat in the moment of suspension are serious faults.

Aim of passage is: To demonstrate the highest degree of collection, cadence and suspension in the trot.

Article 415

THE PIAFFE

1 **Piaffe** is a highly collected, cadenced, elevated diagonal movement giving the impression of remaining in place. The horse's back is supple and elastic. The hindquarters are lowered; the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with spring and an even cadence.

1.1 In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.

1.2 The neck should be raised and gracefully arched, with the poll as the highest point. The horse should remain "on the bit" with a supple poll, maintaining a soft contact. The body of the horse should move in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement.

1.3 Piaffe must always be animated by a lively impulsion and characterised by perfect balance. While giving the impression of remaining in place, there may be a visible inclination to advance, this being displayed by the horse's eager acceptance to move forward as soon as it is asked.

1.4 Moving even slightly backwards, irregular or jerky steps with the hind or front legs, no clear diagonal steps, crossing either the fore or hind legs, or swinging either the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, getting wide behind or in front, moving too much forward or double-beat rhythm are serious faults.

Aims of piaffe are: To demonstrate the highest degree of collection while giving the impression of remaining in place.

Article 416

THE IMPULSION / THE SUBMISSION

1 **Impulsion** is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive energy generated from the hind quarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft and swinging back guided by a gentle contact with the athlete's hand.

1.1 Speed, of itself, has little to do with impulsion; the result is more often a flattening of the paces. A visible characteristic is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should first move forward rather than being pulled upwards, but certainly not backwards. A prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those paces that have a period of suspension.

1.2 Impulsion is a precondition for a good collection in trot and canter. If there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect.

2 **Submission** does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behaviour of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease it is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of the submission is also demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit, with a light and soft contact and a supple poll. Resistance to or evasion of the athlete's hand, being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" demonstrate lack of submission. The main contact with the horse's mouth must be through the snaffle bit.

2.1 Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail, are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for every movement concerned, as well as in the collective mark for "submission".

2.2 The first thought when considering submission is willingness, that the horse understands what is being asked of it and is confident enough in the athlete to react to the aids without fear or tension.

2.3 The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the athlete's legs and go forward into an accepting and self-carrying contact with the bit. This is what really produces the picture of harmony and lightness. The fulfilling of the main requirements/movements of a Dressage test is a main criterion of submission.

Article 417

THE COLLECTION

The aim of the collection of the horse is:

a To further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the athlete.

b To develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage its hindquarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of its forehand.

c To add to the “ease and carriage” of the horse and to make it more pleasurable to ride.

Collection is developed through the use of half-halts and the use of lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers and half pass. Collection is improved and achieved by the use of the seat and legs and containing hands to engage the hind legs. The joints bend and are supple so that the hind legs can step forward under the horse’s body.

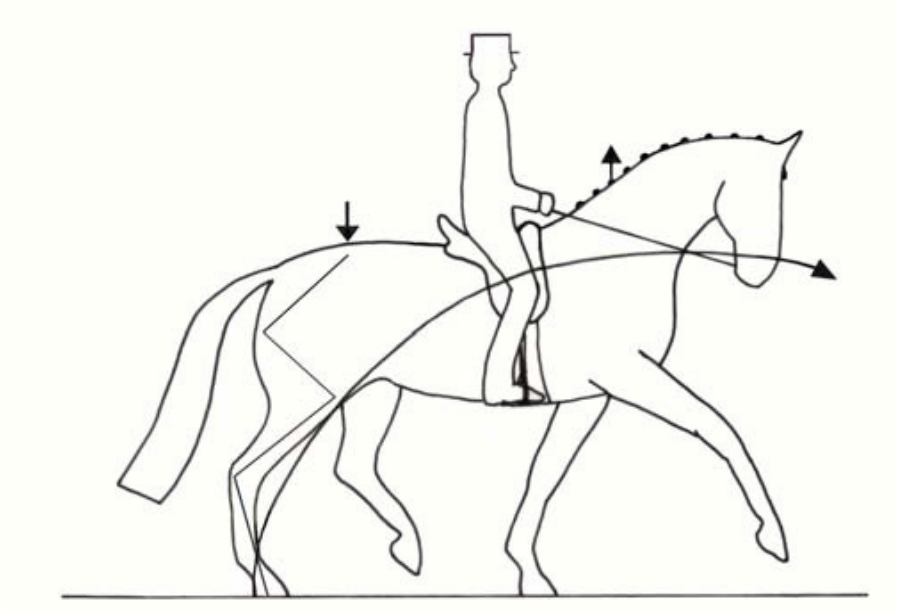
However, the hind legs should not be engaged so far forward under the horse, that they shorten the base of support excessively, thereby impeding the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and raised too much in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be impaired and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance.

On the other hand, a horse with an over-long base of support, which is unable or unwilling to engage its hind legs forward under its body, will never achieve acceptable collection, characterised by “ease and carriage” as well as a lively impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, to some degree, on its conformation. It is distinguished by the neck being raised without restraint, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, which is the highest point, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. At the moment the athlete applies his aids to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical. The arch of the neck is directly related to the degree of collection.

Article 418

THE POSITION AND AIDS OF THE ATHLETE



1 All the movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the athlete. The athlete should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the centre of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with his loins and hips, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple. The contact should be independent from the athlete's seat. The hands should be carried steadily close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the athlete to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.

2. The effectiveness of the athlete's aids determines the precise fulfilment of the required movements of the tests. There shall always be the impression of a harmonious co-operation between horse and athlete.

3. Riding with both hands is obligatory at FEI Dressage Events. Except for Freestyles.. When leaving the arena at a walk on long rein, after having finished the test the athlete may take reins in one hand. The use of the voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly is a serious fault. Refer to sanctions/penalties.

APPENDIX DS / 1

ARENAS FOR DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

1 The arena must be flat and level.

2 The arena must be laid out and marked as per the above diagrams. The measurements given are for the interior of the arena surround. The arena surround itself should be a minimum of 25cm, ideally 30cm high, completely enclosed with a movable section at A. (See Section 32).

3 Spectators or other objects, other than the arena markers, should as far as possible be at least 10 metres away from the arena surround and under no circumstances shall they be less than 5 metres from the arena surround. (For indoor arenas see Section 32.3.2.)

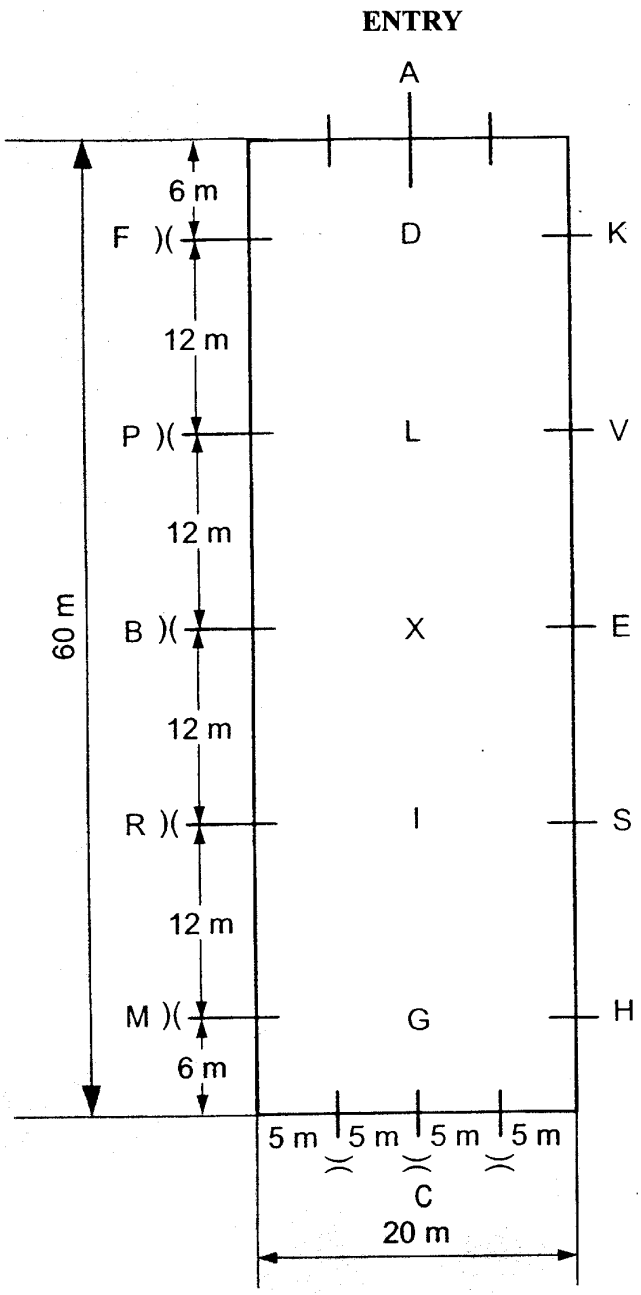
4 At all major events and at National Championships a centre line is recommended but is left to the discretion of the Organizing Committee. When a centre line is used it should be clear but discreet. The points at DL-X-I and G should not be marked. For Freestyle tests and Young Horse tests a centre line is not recommended.

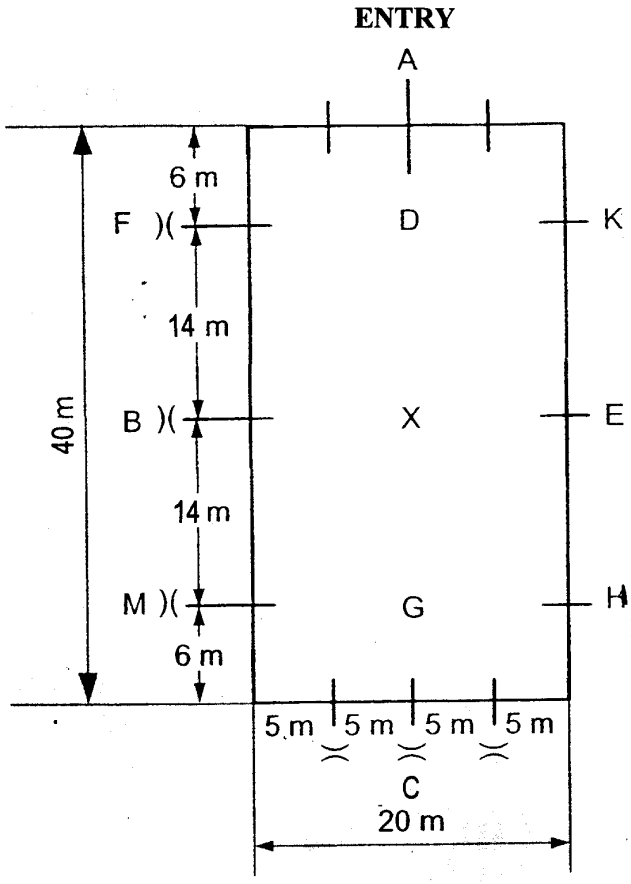
With grass arenas, it is recommended that the centre line be mown shorter than the grass in the arena.

5 The arena markers or letters should be placed approximately 0,50 to 1,0 metre outside the arena surround and should be clearly visible to competitors irrespective of the direction in which they are approached. It is recommended that the points D, L, X, I and G (large arena) or D. X and G (small arena) are marked on the markers F and K, P and V, B and E, R and S and M and H respectively (large arena) or on the markers F and K, B and E, and M and H respectively (small arena) to be written beneath the main marker in question and in smaller lettering. There should be clear mark on the arena surround in line with the letters.

6 The jury should, if possible, be provided with a platform to raise them above ground level and also provided with protection from the sun or weather. They should not be closer than 5m from the arena surround and should be so separated as to be invisible to each other. In the case of three/five judges, the judges at M or H should be sitting 2,5m in from the long sides. Where only two judges are used, the President of the Ground Jury sits at C and where possible, the second judge sits at E or B. Where three judges are used, the President of the Ground Jury sits at C and where possible another of the judges sit at M or H and the third should sit at either E or B on the opposite side to the judge at M or H. When five judges are used then the President of

the Ground Jury sits at C and the other four at M, H, B and E.





KEY TO DRESSAGE FIGURES

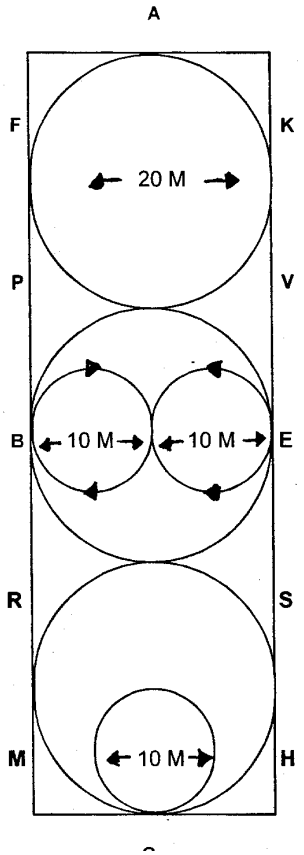


Fig 1

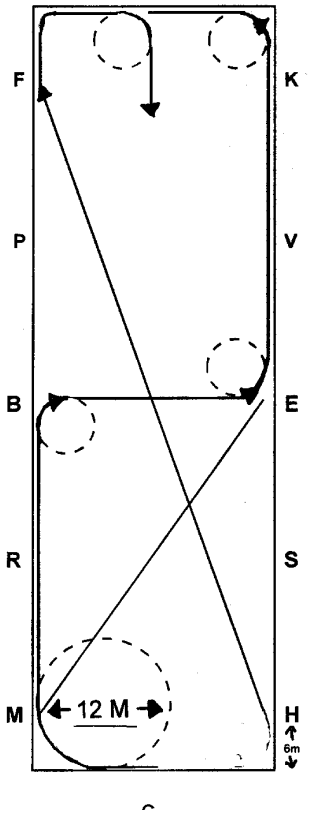


Fig 11

Fig 1 Shows 10m and 20m circles. It is important to note where these circles start and finish in relation to the markers. The two centre circles show how a figure of eight (Width of the arena) should be ridden - two equal 10m circles joined at the centre. The horse should be straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure - in this case at X.

Fig II Shows three ways of changing rein

I Diagonally across the whole arena
Ii Diagonally across half the arena
Iii Straight across the width of the arena (B X E)

It also shows how the corners and the turn at A coming down the centre line should be ridden. The figure shows one quarter of a 6m circle and one quarter of a 12m circle. These are the approximate dimensions that a supple advanced horse is expected to do when changing direction at right angles - the 6m circle for working and collected paces and the 12m circle for medium and extended paces. However, novice horses are not expected to turn so deeply in the corners. The important thing is to ride a true curve (the diameter of which is dependent on the suppleness of the horse in as far as he is able to maintain its pace and balance) with the horse bent in the direction it is going. A wrong bend or no bend at all is incorrect.

Fig III Shows a five loop serpentines going to the long sides of the arena. It is important to note where this figure touching the sides of the arena and across the centre line - only by observing this can the loops be kept even and true figures executed. True figures with smooth changes of direction assist the horse to maintain his rhythm and cadence. However, trot serpentines in Novice and Elementary tests and obviously tests requiring 3 – 5 metre canter serpentines either side of the centre line are not expected to be ridden straight across the centre line. See also Fig V.

Fig IV Shows half 10m and half 15m circles and returning to track - sometimes the return to track point is stated - other times the words “return to track before” a marker is stated.

It is important that the horse’s hind feet follow directly in line with those of the fore feet throughout this movement (in all paces). A tendency to move on two tracks is incorrect.

The figure also shows the use of two 10m half circles to change the rein and should be ridden as HALF a figure of eight as described in Fig I.

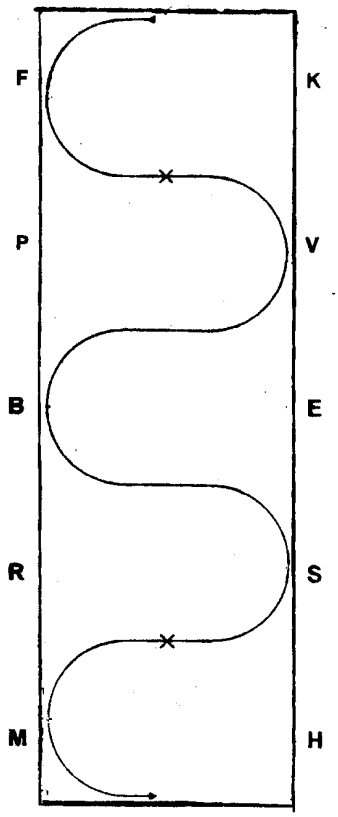


Fig III

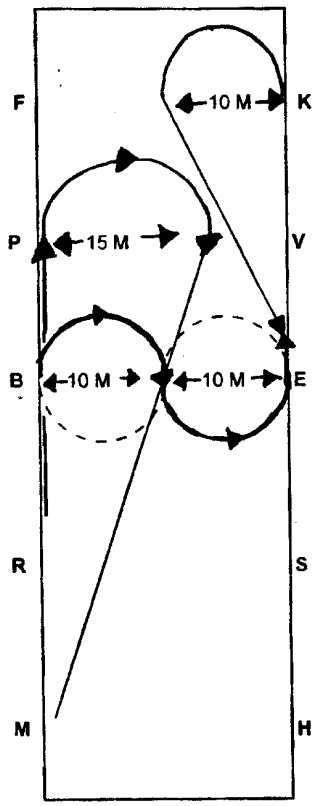


Fig IV

Fig V Shows a three loop serpentine. The Serpentine consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centre line the horse should be parallel to the short side. Depending on the size of the half-circles the straight connection varies in length. See also Fig III.

Fig VI Shows the Counter change of Hand (both at the trot and canter in half pass or in trot only for leg-yielding) where the horse changes direction by moving obliquely either to the quarter line or the centre line or to the opposite long side of the arena, whence, he returns on an oblique line to the line he was following when he started the movement. See Art 409

Leg-yielding can be performed “on the diagonal”, in which case the horse should be as nearly as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the quarters. It can also be performed along the long side of the arena. See diagram in Art 412

The half pass is executed “on the diagonal” only. The horse is looking in the direction in which he is moving. See diagram in Art 412

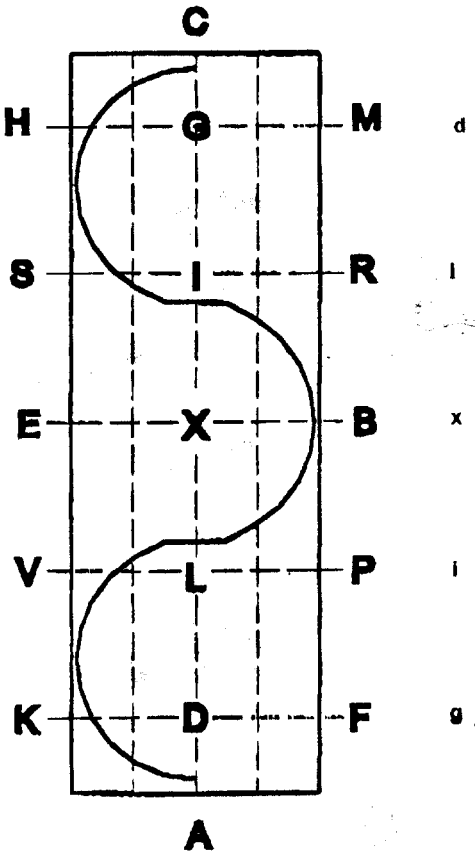


Fig V

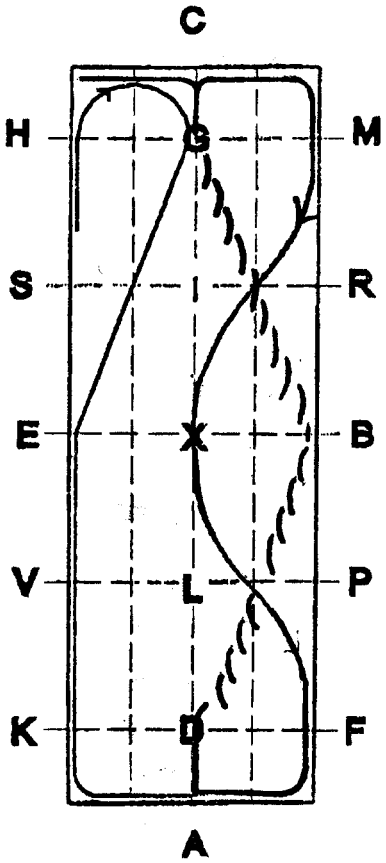
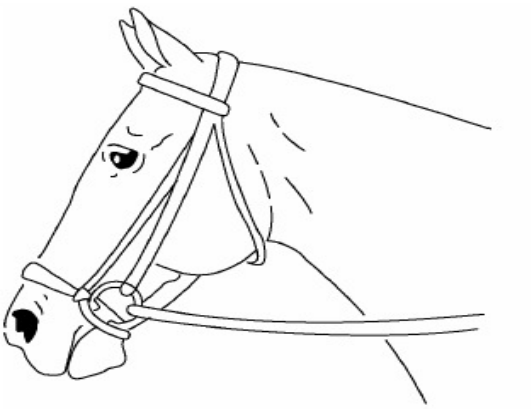


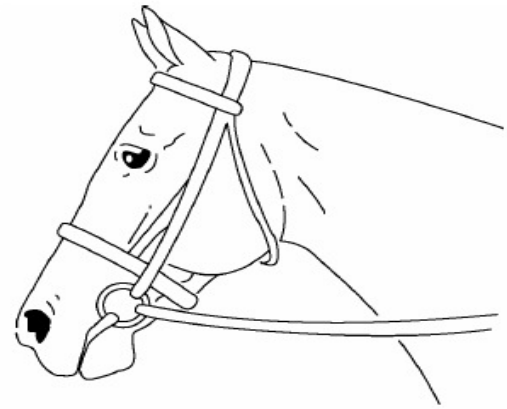
Fig VI

Permitted nosebands

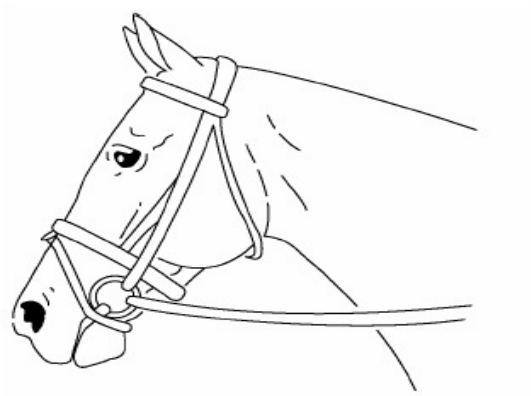
1. Dropped noseband



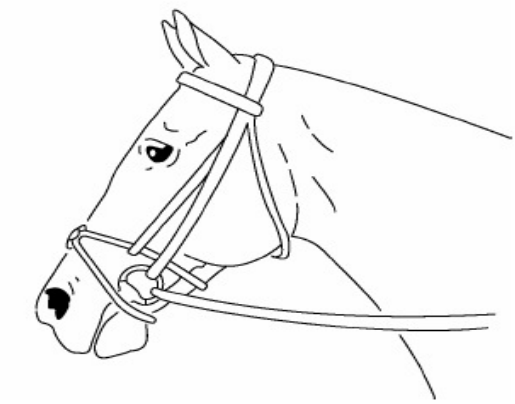
2. Cavesson noseband



3. Flash noseband



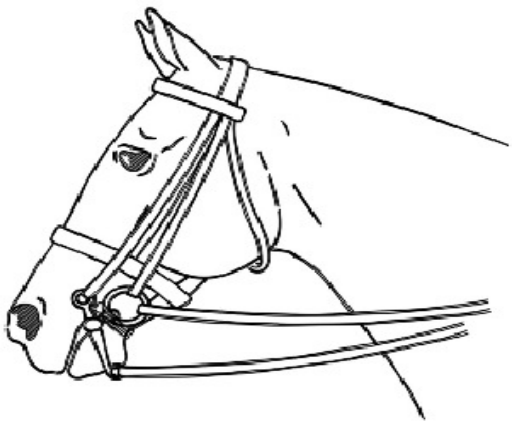
4. Crossed noseband / Mexican noseband



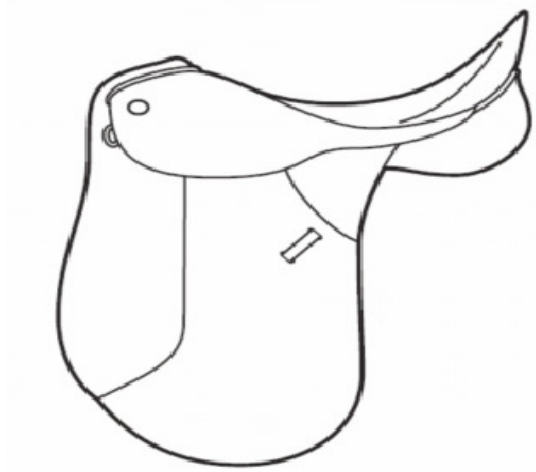
1, 3 and 4 are not permitted when a double bridle is used.

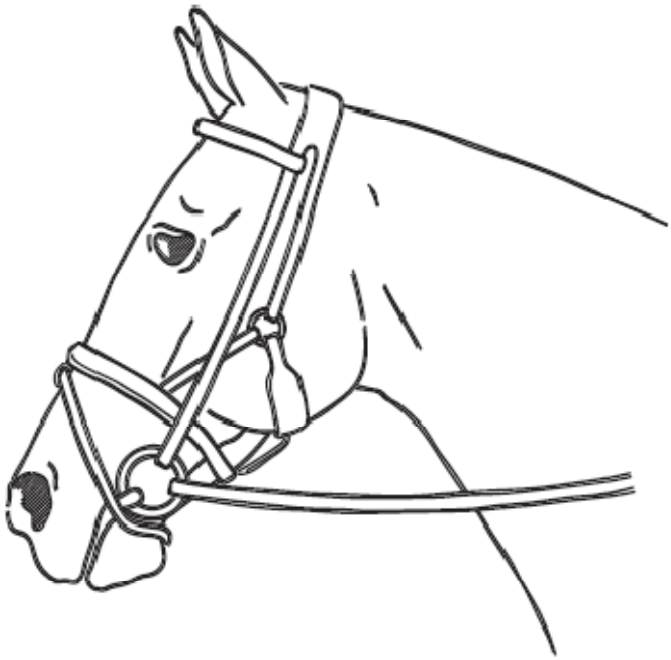
Article 428.1

Example of Double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb with curb chain



Example of permitted Dressage saddle





5. Combined noseband – no throat lash

1, 3 and 4 are not permitted when a double bridle is used.

FIG 1 Illustrates a DROPPED noseband which may ONLY be worn with a snaffle bridle

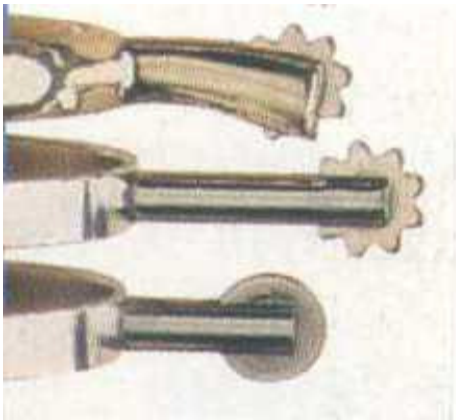
FIG 2 Illustrates a CAVESSON noseband which may be worn with either a snaffle bridle or double bridle.

FIG 3 Illustrates a FLASH noseband which may ONLY be worn with a snaffle bridle.

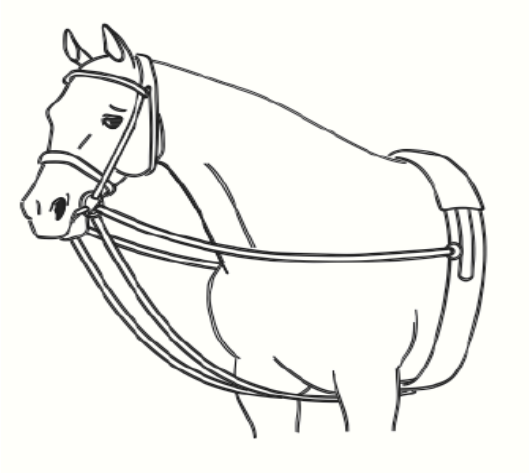
FIG 4 Illustrates a CROSSED/MEXICAN noseband which may ONLY be worn with a snaffle bridle.

- All permitted nosebands must be made of leather. Discreet padding may be used to protect the horse under the noseband. Internal padding is allowed for nosebands and poll pieces.
- Only nosebands as illustrated above may be worn in Dressage Competitions.

- Variations of nosebands other than those illustrated or sheepskin, or synthetic sheepskin nosebands etc. are not permitted, neither is it permissible to wear more than one noseband.

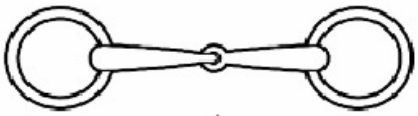


Example of allowed rowels



Example of double sliding reins (triangle/dreieck zugel)

Various double bridle bits



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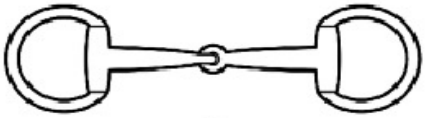

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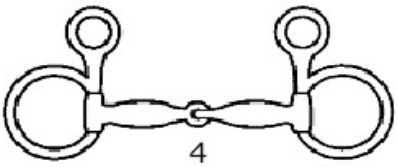

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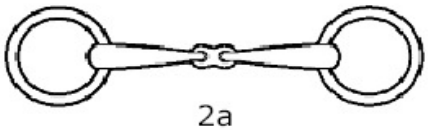

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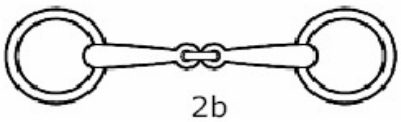

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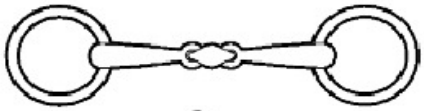

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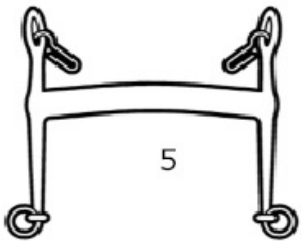

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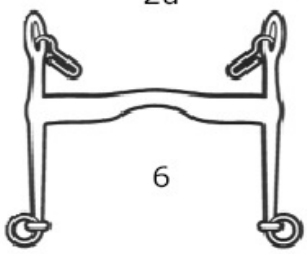

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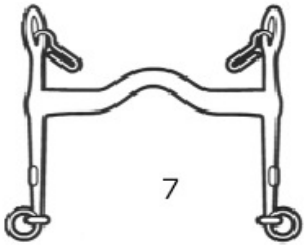

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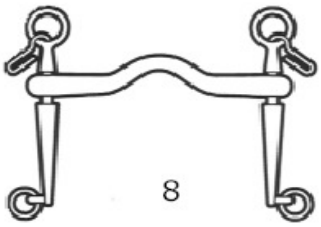

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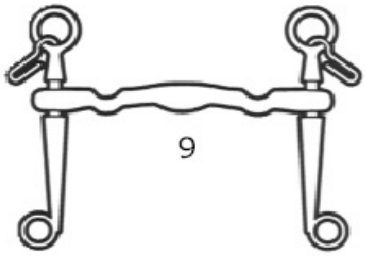

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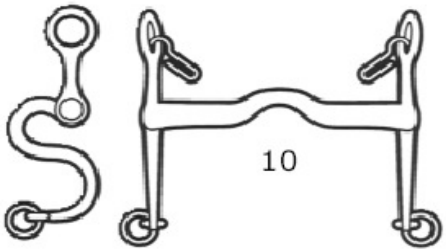

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Various snaffle bridle bits

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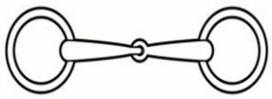

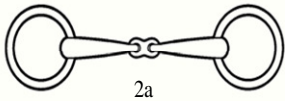

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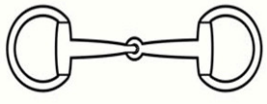

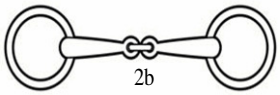

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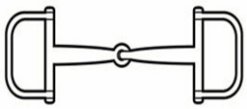

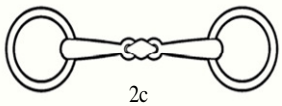

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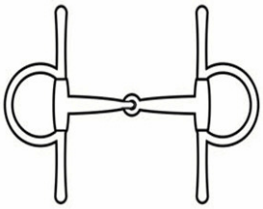

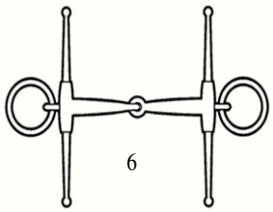

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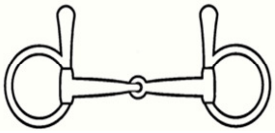

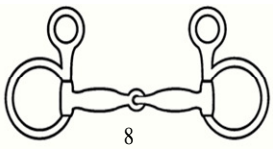

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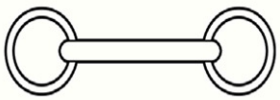

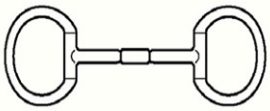

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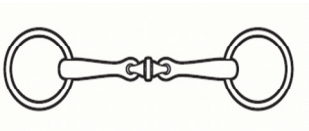

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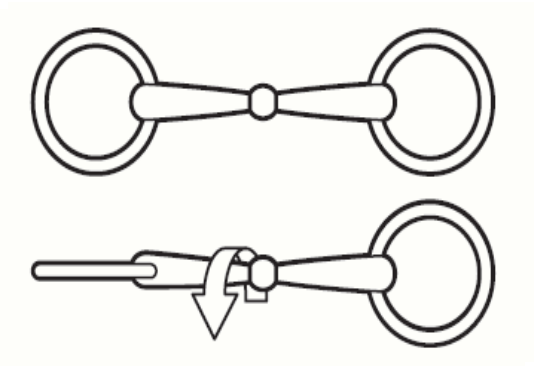
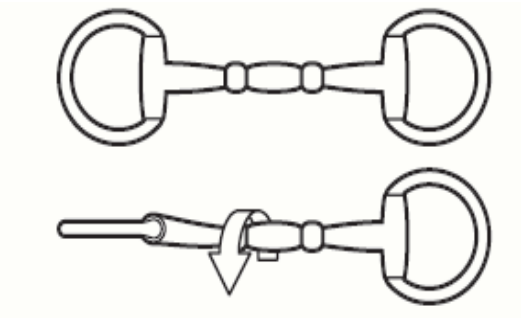
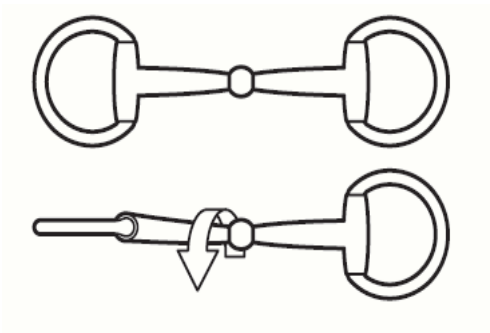
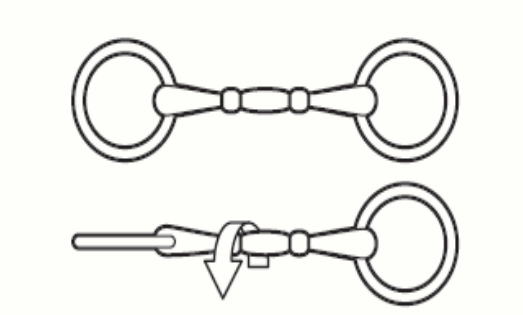
12. Rotary bit









13 Variation

14 Variation

Captions to plates showing permitted bits

Various double bridle bits

Bridoons :

1.	Loose ring bridoon bit
2.a,b,c,	Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded
2 d	Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece
3.	Egg-butt bridoon bit
4.	Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks

Curbs :

5.	Half-moon curb bits
6.+7.	Curb bit with straight cheeks and port
8.	Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth)
	A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed
9.	Variation of bits No 6, 7 & 8
10.	Curb bit with S-curved cheeks
11.	Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination)
12.	Lip strap
13.	Leather cover for curb chain
14.	Rubber cover for curb chain

Various snaffle bridle bits

1.	Loose ring snaffle
2.a,b,c,d	Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded
3.	Egg-butt snaffle
4.	Racing snaffle D-ring
5.	Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks

6. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)

7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only

8. Hanging cheek snaffle

9. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with eggbutt rings.

10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece

11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece

12 Rotating mouth piece

In addition to the above the following bits are approved as variations in manufacture and are allowed (see note iv below):

13 Curved snaffle loose ring see 1 above (B12 B14 D)

14. Snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece see 2 (B14BC45 S1D)

Notes

(i) All forms of double-jointed snaffles, with link piece being within the dimensions and plane of the overall mouthpiece and having rounded-off surfaces, are allowed.

(ii) Link pieces made of a plate having sharp edges, and/or protruding beyond the outline and plane of the mouthpiece are not allowed. (E.g. "Dr Bristol")

(iii) Bits should follow the configuration of those illustrated and must be in their manufactured condition without any alteration or addition to/on any part.

(iv) It is acceptable that there will be variations in the manufacture of the examples, but the rule in regard to variations in manufacture should be interpreted with the intention that the welfare of the horse, together with the best schooling principles, should be the only consideration.

APPENDIX DS/5

DRESS AT ALL RECOGNISED EVENTS

LEVEL OF TEST	COATS	HATS	BREECHES	BOOTS	SHIRTS	TIES/STOCKS	GLOVES
PRELIMINARY/ **NOVICE**	Black, navy, tweed, or dark colour see note below	Cap, Bowler or Top Hat	White, or off white	Long black or colour of jacket or leather leggings. Suede not allowed	White or conservative colour or pattern	White, off white or same colour as coat or American style collar	White, off white or same colour as coat
ELEMENTARY	Black or navy or dark colour see note below	Cap, Bowler or Top Hat	White, or off white	Long black or colour of jacket or leather leggings. Suede not allowed	White or conservative colour or pattern	White, off white or same colour as coat or American style collar	White, off white or same colour as coat
ELEMENTARY/ **MEDIUM & MEDIUM**	Black or navy or dark colour see note below	Cap, Bowler or Top Hat	White, or off white	Long black or colour of jacket or leather leggings. Suede not allowed	White or conservative colour or pattern	White, off white or same colour as coat	White, off white or same colour as coat

MEDIUM /ADVANCED AND FEI TESTS	Tailcoat or dark colour see note below (Only with double Bridle)	Top Hat	White, or off white	Long black or colour of jacket or leather leggings FEI tests – Long black boots only	White or conservative colour or pattern	White, off white or same colour as coat	White, off white or same colour as coat

NOTES

1. **Juniors may wear jodhpurs and jodhpur boots <u>and should wear hard hats in the practice arena</u>**
2. **Top hats and bowlers may not be worn with jodhpurs and jodhpur boots**
3. **Pony Riders may wear jodhpurs and jodhpur boots or long boots and <u>must wear 3 point harness hard hats</u>**
4. **Hair must always be neatly contained under head gear**
5. **Tailcoats must always be worn with Top hats and double bridle**
6. **Leggings are defined as black leather gaiters worn over jodhpur boots**
7. **Dress may vary according to show schedule for Freestyle and Quadrilles**
8. **Waistcoats may be worn, with permission from the organising committee, at shows below CDN status. Shirts must have sleeves and collars when riding without jackets. Military or Police uniform may be worn at all events.**
9. **Leggings or Gaiters may not be worn at FEI events.**
10. **Jacket colour must be dark in colour. Contrast colouring and piping is allowed. Only SANEF registered badges are allowed on jacket.**
11. **Under penalty of elimination, the use of ear phones are strictly forbidden. They are, however, allowed in the warm up.**

APPENDIX DS/6

FREESTYLE RULES

This is a competition of artistic equitation to music at all levels. It includes all the school paces and all the fundamental airs of the Classical High School as in the test of the same level. The competitor is, however, absolutely free in the form and manner of the presentation he chooses within a fixed time. The test should clearly show the unity between rider and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions.

The choreography of the test should show originality with order, avoiding the limitations of a normal dressage test, but not confusing the judge and spectators with indiscernible patterns.

The degree of difficulty of the composition of the test is marked by the judge, but the rider risks elimination if movements from a higher level/grade are included. See appendix DS9

It is desirable that the character of the chosen music should match the horse's way of going. Transitions between paces should be flowing and contiguous, without disruptive gaps in the sound and rhythm of the test.

Any type of music may be chosen, and its enhancement of the horse's movements will be the judging point. Vocalised music is allowed, but should not distract from performance.

1 All Freestyle competitions held at Recognised Events must be run in accordance with these rules as well as all applicable Dressage rules.

2 Judges shall be appointed in accordance with Section 32.4.0, Appendix DS/7 and Regional rules, depending on the status of the Event.

3 All grades and age classifications are catered for. Eligibility of competitors must be published in the schedule.

4 Judging sheets, which state the required movements, are available in the same way as ordinary dressage test sheets.

5 Music must be recorded on a CD or MP3, depending on the showholding body's equipment, and played through a loudspeaker system. Live music, performed next to the arena, is not permitted.

6 Freestyle for all Pony Rider grades will be performed in an arena measuring 20m x 40m. The maximum duration of the test will be 4 minutes.

7 Freestyle for Adult Novice, Elementary, Elementary/Medium, Medium, Advanced and FEI classes will be performed in an arena measuring 20m x 60m. The maximum duration of the test in the various grades is as follows:

Novice	5 minutes
Elementary	5 minutes
Elementary/Medium and Medium	5 ½ minutes
Advanced and FEI, including Grand Prix	6 minutes

8 At the completion of the time specified for the test in point 6 and 7 above, the judge will ring the bell. However, an allowance of 10 seconds over the time will be given, after which judging will cease, and the rider will be penalised by having two marks deducted from the total score.

9 Dress for these competitions is the same as worn in the respective classes of normal dressage competitions, as per SANEF rules unless otherwise stated. Rules regarding saddlery, related tack apply.

10 The test must start and finish with a halt and salute on the centre line. The timing of the test will be executed from the move-off after the first halt to the transition into the final halt. A rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the music starting and the music must cease on the final halt.

11 All the required movements listed on the test sheets must be performed, and will be marked out of 10 in the normal way. Failure to perform a movement will result in a 0 being recorded for the movement.

12 If the rider deliberately performs a more advanced movement than normally ridden in that grade, then that rider will be eliminated. Advanced Freestyles may include movements from Advanced, Prix St Georges. Intermediate Freestyle will use the Intermediate I Freestyle sheet and may include movements from FEI Intermediate I level. The National Grand Prix Kur may include movements from Intermediate II and above and will be scored on the Grand Prix Freestyle Sheet.

13 All entries for Freestyle, unless otherwise stated in the schedule must be within the horse/pony's current registered grade with the exception that Advanced Horses may enter the Grand Prix Freestyle.

14 In the event of a breakdown of the broadcasting equipment, the judge will ring the bell, and the test will be recommenced when the sound is restored. If, at the start of the test, the rider is dissatisfied with the quality of sound reproduction, he/she may indicate to the judge, and the possible malfunction of the equipment can be investigated

Technical failure: In the case of a rider's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the rider can, with the permission of the President of the Ground Jury, leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders. The affected rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The President of the Ground Jury, after conferring with the rider, will determine when the rider should return to the arena. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In any case the already given marks will not be changed.

15 Quadrilles and Pas de Deux's will be judged as per the FEI Rules for Pas de Deux's.

Pas De Deux

Pas de Deux, is a class in competitive dressage where two horse/rider combinations are in the arena at the same time. Pas de Deux teams consist of two horses and two riders each performing as both a team and individually, with the emphasis of the scoring being on the quality of the movements executed. Pas de Deux teams performs a self-choreographed test at a specified freestyle level.

Judging: Three judges, sitting at C. One judge judges one of the combinations, one judge judges the other combination. Both judges give only technical marks. The third judge judges the artistic performance.

Test Sheets: Freestyle test sheet

OBLIGATORY USE OF PANEL

JUDGES (Read in conjunction with Section 32.4.0).

The minimum standard of judges as detailed hereunder is obligatory for the following Events - CN Status, FEI and the SANEF Competition:

1.0 Conflict of Interest. No Judge may officiate at an event if his duties will involve a conflict of interest The following persons may not be a member of a Ground Jury at an event:

i) The owners/part-owners and riders of horses taking part in the event.

ii) Chefs d' Equipe, team officials, regular trainers and employers and Employees of competitors. Regular trainer may only judge whether there is no other reasonable alternative and provided that at the event the appointed judge may not give training assistance.

iii) The relatives of owners, competitors, Chefs d'Equipe or team officials.

iv) Persons having a financial or personal interest in a horse or competitor taking part in a competition.

v) When accepting invitations to judge, a judge must declare his/her interest in any person or horse competing that he/she has /owned/part-owned or has had a business interest in within the twelve months preceding the event, thus giving the OC the opportunity to allocate that judge to competitions in which this particular person/horse will not take part.

1.1 EVENTS HOLDING C.N. STATUS AND ABOVE

(Excluding South African National Championship classes).

(a) All Tests up to EM or PREM. A minimum of two judges one of whom must be on the National Panel or National Candidates Panel.

(b) M and PRM Tests. A minimum of two judges, one of whom must be from the National Panel, the other may be from the National Candidates Panel.

(c) Advanced Tests. A minimum of two judges from the National "A" or "B" Panels.

(d) Prix St. Georges Level and Above. A minimum of three judges from the National Panel, two of whom must be from the National "A" Panel.

1.2 SOUTH AFRICAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Adult Championship and Adult Freestyle Championship. The Jury shall consist of a minimum of three but ideally five judges, three of which must be from the National "A" Panel or above and the remaining two from the National "B" Panel. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should each reside in different province.

(b) Young Rider, Junior and Pony Rider Championship. The jury shall consist of three but ideally five judges from the National “A” or “B” Panels or above. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should where possible each reside in different provinces.

(c) Visiting foreign judge/s may replace a National "A" Panel or "B" Panel judge/s provided permission is first obtained from the National Dressage committee. All such applications should be addressed to the Secretary General of the Federation and the National Dressage Chairman.

1.3 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Adult Championship. The Jury shall consist of a minimum of three but ideally five judges, three of which must be from the National "A" Panel or above and the remaining two from the National “B” Panel. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should each reside in different provinces.

(b) Young Rider, Junior and Pony Rider Championship. The jury shall consist of three but ideally five judges from the National “A” or “B” Panels or above. No more than two judges should be resident in any one province where five judges are appointed. Where three judges are used they should where possible each reside in different provinces.

2. EVENTS BELOW C.N. STATUS

(a) For all competitions up to and including EM and PREM Tests, one National or Provincial Panel judge is acceptable, provided the judges are qualified for that level according to Provincial rules.

(b) For competitions using M Tests, two judges from the National or Provincial Panels are required, provided the judges are qualified as in 2(a) above.

(c) For competitions using Advanced and F.E.I. Tests, two National judges are required. If these are not available, the highest qualified judges may officiate, but the class would not, in that case, be recognised for grading purposes. See Item 7.

5. LEARNER JUDGES:

In competitions staged for grading purposes, Learner Judges may not officiate on their own - neither should their marks be taken into consideration in the compilation of results.

6. FOREIGN JUDGES

Foreign Judges may officiate in place of any of the aforementioned judges but ONLY provided permission has been first obtained from the Federation or the Provincial Body depending on the status of the event and the relevant panel level in their own country.

Application for such approval must be made to the Federation, or Provincial Body respectively, giving full details of the foreign judge's Panel Qualifications, before any invitation to the foreign judge to officiate is made.

7. UNAVAILABILITY OF PRESCRIBED JUDGES

Should the prescribed level of judges not be available, permission must be obtained from the National Judges Selection Committee or Provincial Body respectively, to use a judge on the next lower panel.

8. PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE AT EVENTS OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

Officials on SANEF National Panels and Provincial Panels invited to officiate outside South Africa are requested to notify SANEF or the National Dressage Committee accordingly. If such an invitation is dependant on a testimonial being given by SANEF then an application for this must first be made through the applicant's Provincial Body to be forwarded to SANEF with that Provincial Body's recommendation.

9 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF COMBINATIONS A DAY

At any event a Judge may not be called upon to judge more than approximately 50 combinations a day.

SANEF DRESSAGE COMPETITION RULES

Sections

The competition shall be run at separate levels with the relevant tests for each section being elected annually by the National Technical Dressage Committee.

Section	Grade	Test
Section 1.	Adult Novice horses	FEI WC Preliminary
Section 2.	Adult Elementary horses	FEI WC Elementary
Section 3.	Adult Elementary-Medium horses	FEI WC Medium
Section 4.	Adult Medium horses	FEI WC Advanced
Section 5.	Adult FEI level	Prix St George
		Intermediate 1
		Intermediate 11
Section 6.	Junior Novice horses	FEI WC Preliminary
Section 7.	Junior Elementary horses	FEI WC Elementary
Section 8.	Junior Elementary-Medium horses	FEI WC Medium
Section 9.	Junior Medium	FEI WC Advanced
Section 10.	Junior Advanced	Prix St George
Section 11.	Pony Rider Elementary	FEI WC Preliminary
Section 12.	Pony Rider Elementary-Medium & Medium	FEI WC Elementary

(Pony rider's with EM ponies may elect to ride in either section 11 or 12. No cross entry between sections 11 & 12.). No penalties will apply for Medium ponies.

The above cross entries restriction may be modified each year if circumstances and numbers warrant it.

All tests will be ridden from memory, in the SANEF Competition Classes. This does not include the warm-up and Qualifying classes except all FEI Tests. All FEI Tests must be ridden from memory.

Team Classification

A Team event will be incorporated into the SANEF Competition. Each province will nominate three riders per section before the start of the event and the top two scores of the nominated riders will count towards the team score for that section.

The sum of the two scores will constitute the Provincial Team total. In the case of equality of points, the team whose second ranked rider achieved the higher percentage will be placed first.

Province Participation
For the Province to participate, it must compete in a minimum of three sections and 25 horses to make travelling of two judges a viable proposition. It would, however, not be necessary for all sections of the competition to be held by a Province, it is merely a chance for dressage riders to ride on reasonably equal terms against their peers in the other Provinces. A Participation Fee will be levied for each Section entered, to partially cover administration costs. The amount charged per Section will be revised annually.

Each Province will be limited to a maximum of 100 starters in total for all section for the SANEF Competition Classes at the show. . The number of competitors allowed for each section will be at the discretion of the Provincial Body.

In any Section where qualifying classes are necessary and a rider qualifies two or more horses for that Section, the rider must nominate one horse only for that section, unless the number of qualifiers falls short of the allowed limit.

SANEF Competition classes must not incorporate any other class or championship.

Ground Jury
The Competition shall be judged by the same two National Panel Judges (or one National Panel Judge and one National Candidate Panel Judge) who will travel to each of the participating Provinces. Ideally, the Provincial legs of the Competition should be held as close as possible to each other on the calendar.

The visiting judges will not judge more than 50 competitors per day and will only judge the SANEF competition. The judges may not judge other classes except for approved para-equestrian classes.

Arenas
The Judges will always judge from the same position in each section and leg of the Competition, with one Judge at 'C' and the positions 'B' or 'E' being used in alternating years. If this is not practical, the judges may sit at 'C' and 'B' or 'E', with permission from the National committee.

The arena surface should be sand or good quality grass

Rider Participation
Horses may only compete in the grade in which they are registered with their Provincial Body, as at closing date of entries for the Event incorporating the SANEF Competition, with the exception of Section 11 and Section 12. In Section 11, Elementary-Medium Ponies may compete with no penalty. In Section 12, Medium ponies may compete with no penalties.

Where a horse/pony has qualified for the SANEF competition in a specific grade and has subsequently been upgraded following the qualification show, the horse/pony will compete in the SANEF competition in the grade in which it qualified and may not compete in another show in the higher grade before completing the SANEF Competition. Horse, owner/rider combinations may only compete in their home Province (i.e. both horse and rider must be registered in the Province in which they are competing).

However on application containing the reason and explanation for the request to the Dressage Technical Committee, riders may compete in the SANEF Competition outside their home province, or compete on horses registered in another Province (providing such riders/horses are considered “bone fide” combinations). The host Province for riders granted permission must be in agreement as this application may impact on the qualifying riders in that Province.

It must be noted that permission will not automatically be granted and that the decision of the Dressage Technical Committee, with approval from the Province that will be asked to accept the entry, and the original province, will be final and binding.

In the event that a Province cannot field enough riders to justify the expense to send two judges to that Province, the riders from that Province may compete in another Province. The visiting riders must be allowed to compete in addition to the qualifying riders of the host Province.

A rider’s score, achieved outside of their home province will be attributed to their home province for purposes of overall national results in the Individual classifications.

Horses may only compete in one age group in the same year, e.g. a horse entered in a Junior Section may not also be entered in an adult Section.

Show Organisers
The tests involved in the SANEF Competition will form part of the schedule for the Event holding the Competition. The Show Organisers will choose what entry fees/prize money/prizes will be allocated to the classes relating to the Competition at a Provincial level. The overall Section winners, nationally, will only be known when all the Provincial legs have been completed, at which time a list of placings, and the scores of both judges for all horses entered will be forwarded to the SANEF Convenor. The SANEF Convenor will forward the results to the Dressage Technical Committee Chairman, the Provincial chairmen of the participating Provinces, and SANEF whose responsibility it will be to inform their respective members/competitors. However results will be sent out after each Province has competed to keep interest.

Horses Schooling
Under no circumstances, and under penalty of disqualification, may any horse take part in any class at the SANEF Dressage Competition that has been schooled under saddle by anyone other than the competitor concerned from the start of the first day of the show until the last entered class. The onus is on competitors to comply with this rule where horses are removed from the grounds.

Awards
Prizes for all Sections will be awarded at the respective National Dressage Championships.

Small, star-shaped badges will be awarded to the overall winners for the Adult Sections of the SANEF competition. Triangular badges will be awarded to the overall winners of the Junior and Pony Rider Sections. It is recommended that these badges should be stitched on to the rider’s jacket in a straight line on the left hand side. Should the rider also have Provincial or National Colours, these SANEF badges should be positioned above the other badge.

Colours of the SANEF badges will be as follows:

FEI level	- Gold
Advanced and Medium	- Silver
Elem-Medium	- Red
Elementary	- Blue
Novice	- Green

Costs

Until an overall sponsor is found, the cost of travelling to the nearest Domestic Airport for the two judges will be borne by the SANEF Dressage Fund. All other travelling costs and accommodation is for the cost of the organising committee. It is suggested that Show Organisers invite visiting Judges to conduct a Seminar after the Event, if time permits.

Convener

At the AGM of the Dressage Technical Committee, a National Convener for the SANEF Competition will be appointed for the following two years.

Although these apply mainly to the higher levels the principles can be followed for the lower levels. These are taken from the FEI rules 01 January 2006

Annex VI - Directives for Assessing the Degree of Difficulty in a Freestyle Test

1 Initial Comments

The assessment of the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test cannot be made separately from the other technical and artistic scores. There is a close connection between the degree of difficulty and the technical execution as they greatly determine the first two artistic scores. Lack of quality in the execution of the movement is considered a deficit in the performance ability of rider and/or horse. These must be taken into consideration as deductions in the degree of difficulty scoring.

2 The Basic Level in the Degree of Difficulty for the Small Tour

The basic level in the degree of difficulty is defined by the standardised FEI Freestyle test of that particular level.

3 The Higher Scoring Elements for the Degree of Difficulty for the Small Tour

The following examples are considered as "higher scoring" and heighten the degree of difficulty and the score when executed in a technically correct manner:

- A greater number of tempi changes than the compulsory minimum;
- Movements executed on curved and/or angled lines;
- A steep angle in the half pass combined with changes of direction in the zigzag on equally mirrored lines;
- Shoulder-in on the centre or quarter-line;
- Extended canter followed by half-pirouette (Young Riders Freestyle) or pirouette (Intermediate I Freestyle);
- Extended canter transition to walk.
- Direct transitions from four tempi changes into three tempi changes and back to four tempi changes (Young Riders Freestyle) or from three tempi changes into two tempi changes and back to three tempi changes (Intermediate I Freestyle).
- Execution of difficult exercises and transitions with the reins in one hand, but restricted to a maximum of four exercises.

4 The Basic Level in the Degree of Difficulty for the Grand Prix

The basic level in the degree of difficulty is defined by the standardised FEI Freestyle test of that particular level.

5 The Higher Scoring Elements for the Degree of Difficulty for the Grand Prix

The following examples are considered as "higher scoring" and heighten the degree of difficulty and the score when executed in a technically correct manner:

- A greater number of tempi changes than the compulsory minimum;
- Double pirouettes (triple pirouettes are not allowed; see Guidelines for Judges, Annex VII).
- Movements executed on curved and/or angled lines;
- A steep angle in the half pass combined with several changes of direction in the zigzag on equally mirrored lines is considered very difficult;
- Piaffe and passage derived from the walk or halt are rated more difficult than piaffe and passage derived from a movement of impulsion;
- Execution of difficult exercises and transitions with the reins in one hand, but restricted to a maximum of four exercises;
- Combinations mixed with difficult transitions between movements, (e.g., canter-passage-canter, extended canter directly connected with pirouettes, extended canter followed by piaffe and at clearly defined points, direct transitions from two tempi changes into changes every stride and back to two tempi changes).

6 Clarifications

All exercises should be clearly defined with set points marking the beginning and end. Half passes are to be clearly marked as well as executed on clear lines. There should be equality in the Freestyle by the use of both reins.

Excessive use of personal horse/rider strength movements should be avoided as it negates from the choreographic balance of the Freestyle. Difficult movements (e.g. piaffe and passage) should have a greater emphasis placed on their execution in the Freestyle. A clear placing of the movement allows for better judgment and thus a better scoring capability from the judge's standpoint.

The Freestyle presentation should be clearly and logically constructed displaying a true harmonious balance between the horse and rider. Harmony, fluidity, and equality are the Freestyle's important foundation. The elements with a high degree of collection should repeatedly interact with exercises containing forward impulsion clearly presenting the basic gaits.

All elements that raise the degree of difficulty shall be positively rated when fully complemented and supported by the music. Additional Piaffe pirouettes, passage half passes and canter pirouettes combined with half passes are not considered as a higher degree of difficulty, although they are to be rated positively in the choreography.

Classical Dressage in the presentation of a Freestyle test, as stated in the rules of the FEI, is the highest priority.

7 **Guidelines for Scoring**

With special attention to the initial comments and the clarifications under point 6 and the Guidelines for Judges (Annex VII), the recommended directives for points awarded for degree of difficulty are as follows:

- When only the minimum requirements for the basis level are fulfilled, approximately 6.0.
- When there is a rise in the degree of difficulty according to the level of standard tests Young Rider Individual Test, Intermediate I, Grand Prix/Grand Prix Special, minimum of 7.0.
- When there is a rise in the degree of difficulty beyond the standard tests in accordance with the above-mentioned examples, minimum of 8.0.

8 **Failing music**.

Problems with a rider's music failing during a Freestyle Test (see.SANEF 32.5.4)

RULE 32.5.4

In case of any technical failure that will interfere with the competition, the judge at C shall ring the bell. It is recommended that in clear cases of external disturbance, the same procedure is applied. In the case of an athlete's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the rider can, with the permission of the President of the class, leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders athletes. The affected rider athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The President of the class, after conferring with the rider ,will determine when the rider should return to the arena. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. In any case the already given marks will not be changed.

Annex VII Guidelines for Judges - FEI Freestyle Tests

Junior Freestyle (SANEF Medium Freestyle)

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1 More than half pirouettes in walk (i.e. more than 180 degrees) Final mark for pirouettes 0 (regardless of any other correctly executed pirouettes).

2 Flying changes shown in sequence (of every 4 strides or less) Final mark for all flying changes 0 (regardless of any other single flying changes shown).

3 One counter change of hand in canter is allowed. However if more than one change of direction is performed, the final mark for canter half-passes, both left and right is 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown individual half passes)

NB Counter changes of hand in trot are allowed, the angles of which are left to the riders discretion.

4 If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement, it is considered as 0.

5 Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography. However, if any movements which are not mentioned in medium level tests under compulsory movements, are deliberately shown, the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Canter Pirouettes, Piaffe, Passage.

Young Rider Freestyle (SANEF Advanced Freestyle)

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1 More than half pirouettes in canter (i.e. more than 180 degrees) Final mark for pirouettes, 0. NB If the “illegal” pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouettes would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right. In order to obtain a high technical score, half canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Half pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass. However, if half pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass the movement will be scored as technically insufficient.

Half canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2 Flying changes shown in sequences of two time and one time. Final mark for all flying changes, 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown four time and three time sequence changes). Counter changes of hand are allowed. The angles are left to the riders’ discretion.

3 If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

4 Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography. However, if any movements, which are not mentioned in Young Rider level tests (under compulsory movements), are deliberately shown, the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Piaffe, Passage.

Intermediate I Freestyle

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1 More than single pirouettes in canter (i.e. more than 360 degrees) final mark for pirouettes 0. NB If the "illegal" pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouette would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right.

In order to obtain a high technical score, canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass. However, if pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass, the movement will be scored as technically insufficient.

Canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2 Flying changes shown in sequence at every stride. Final mark for flying changes 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown three time and two time sequence changes).

3 If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

4 Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography. However, if any movements, which are not mentioned in Intermediate level, are deliberately shown the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Piaffe, Passage.

Grand Prix Freestyle

In the event of the following movement being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1 More than double pirouettes in canter (i.e. two pirouettes of more than 360 degrees each, in one continuous movement). Final mark for pirouettes 0.

NB If the “illegal” pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouette would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right.

In order to obtain a high technical score, canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass.

However, if pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass the movement will be scored as technically insufficient. Canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, or from and into piaffe, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2 Piaffe. In order to obtain a high technical score piaffe must be shown on a straight line with a minimum of 10 steps straight. If piaffe is only shown in the form of a pirouette, it will be scored as technically insufficient. If a piaffe pirouette is shown in addition to a piaffe with a minimum of 10 steps straight it will be scored technically as usual.

3 Passage. In order to obtain a high technical score, passage must be shown on one track (a minimum of 20 m). If passage is only shown in the form of a half pass it will be scored as technically insufficient. If passage in half pass is shown in addition to a passage on one track, it will be scored technically as usual.

4 If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

5 Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography.

Appendix DS/10

Directives for Dressage Competitions for Young Horses

SANEF Rules for Dressage Events apply to all young horse events, except where stated differently below.(Modified for Local conditions)

A primary concern is the correct training of young dressage horses, to enhance the reputation of national breeds and to encourage interest in national competitions involving young horses.

Dressage Tests

Young horse tests as published by SANEF will be used**.**

Classes must be restricted in age groups e.g. 4 years, 5 years and 6-7 years.

Depending on the expected number of entries, organizing committees may arrange classes in separate or combined age categories.

Dress and Saddlery

As per SANEF rules. All young horse tests are required to be ridden in a snaffle.

Assessment

Basic ideas: The handiness, basic paces and general impression of the horse as a dressage horse will be judged. Judges should ask whether or not the performance of the horse corresponds to the general idea of a dressage horse; whether the horse is on the correct training path; and whether the horse has the ability to perform Dressage at a high level.

Special emphasis has to be made of soft and constant contact, the satisfactory activity of the mouth, an elastic poll in the three basic gaits and in the transitions. The steps and strides must be in rhythm and without tension.

Flexion and bending, the harmonious development on both hands and suppleness are important. There must be impulsion, which has to be developed through the hindquarters, leading into a swinging back and a soft and steady contact.

Fundamental training errors will generally lead to lower marks being awarded.

Examples of such errors are: obviously unlevel rhythm, tension, lasting contact failure, insufficiently swinging back, serious crookedness and insufficient engagement of the hind legs.

Minor mistakes (e.g. halt not straight, concentration lapses, moments of shortness in the neck or being momentarily above the bit) should be judged with some lenience, if, in

principle, the horse is demonstrating good movement and is shown to be presented correctly in accordance with its level of training.

Horses which at the beginning of the test show tension and some concentration lapses or which may even be a bit spooky, should be judged more benevolently than in other Dressage competitions.

The exercises required of young horses are generally of a low level and collection is not required.

Examples of minor mistakes:

- Transitions not exactly at the markers

- Medium canter slightly crooked

- Slight crookedness when collecting after extensions

- Starting the lateral movements not exactly at the markers

Walk: The walk is a marching pace in which the footfalls of the horse's hooves follow one another in a "four time" beat, well-marked and maintained in all work at the walk. When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become almost a lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace.

It is at the walk that the imperfections of dressage are most evident. A young horse should not be asked to walk "on the bit" at the early stages of his training as to require collection at this stage will negatively influence the horse's development. The horse should cover ground well and must step forward into the bit with confidence.

Trot: The trot is a pace of "two time" on alternate diagonal legs (the left fore and right hind leg alternating and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension. The trot should consist of free, active and regular steps and must be moved into without hesitation.

The quality of the trot is judged by assessing the overall impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps - originating from a supple back and well engaged hind quarters - and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition from one trot pace to another.

Canter: The canter is a pace of "three time", where at canter to the right, for instance, the footfalls follow one another as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously right hind and left fore), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins. The canter should be light and regular and the horse should remain straight. The strike off should be without hesitation.

The quality of the canter is judged by assessing the overall impression, the regularity and lightness of the three paces (working, medium and extended) - originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an

active hock action - and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter pace to another.

General Impression:

The emphasis here is on the three basic paces, the type and quality of the horse's conformation, the charisma and presence of the horse, suppleness and the degree of effortlessness with which the horse is able to perform the movements. A horse, which has the potential for high-level sport, has to be preferred to a horse that completes the test in an obedient manner but has no real ability to proceed to the higher levels of Dressage.

The Rider:

The judging of the seat, aids and influence of the rider plays a secondary role.

Judging of Young Horse Tests:

The tests are to be judged by a Ground Jury of up to three qualified judges. The three judges will sit together in the same judge's booth (positioned at C) and will judge as a team and will not give separate marks. In addition to these three judges, a fourth judge may be appointed to provide a commentary after the completion of each horse's test. This commentary is mainly for the benefit of spectators and the main purpose thereof is to explain the rideability and strengths of the individual horse in relation to the demands at each level of competition, the quality of the three basic paces, and the horse's ability to perform as a high-level dressage horse. The commentator should give their commentary in the national language of the country in which the event is taking place as well as English. A list of judges who are qualified to act as commentating judges will be maintained by SANEF or the Provincial body.

At Championship events, commentary will be compulsory for the second qualifying test and for the final competition. At other events, commentary is not compulsory but is recommended in order to encourage spectator interest and to illustrate the differences between young horse events and other international dressage competitions.

In addition to and as part of the test sheet, an assessment of each horse will be completed by the judges. The judges will write a detailed report underlining the strengths and weaknesses of each horse. Special attention must be given to the "General Impression" section of the assessment, where all the positive and negative aspects of the horse should be set out.

Organisers should make provision for a short break (up to five minutes) between horses so as to allow for sufficient time for the commentary and the marking and completion of the test sheet and assessment form.

Penalisation. Every "error of the course", whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised, except as noted above:

- the first time by 0.2 points,

- the second time by 0.4 points,

- the third time the competitor is eliminated

Marking. In Young Horses Tests, one decimal is allowed.