



Equestrian Australia Para Dressage Committee – Summary of Rule Changes
(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2025)

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
1.3.1	Reporting of abuse	Clarification for the procedures for reporting abuse as per EA Health, Safety & Horse Welfare Team	<p>Anyone witnessing an incident of abuse must report it in writing the form of a written protest (see EA General Regulations Article 163) in confidence to the OC immediately who will refer the matter without delay to officials at the event with the appropriate time and authority to deal with it or, if such officials are not available, on their behalf within 14 days to the State CEO Branch authority to initiate action.</p> <p>Competitors are alerted to the fact that, as well as FEI and EA General Regulation 142, cruel application of spurs, whips or bits is illegal in some Australian states and territories.</p>

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1.5	Sensory Hairs	Consistent with new FEI rules	<p>Please refer to the current EA General Regulations: Article 141 - Protection of Horses. A horse's sensory hairs may not be clipped and/or shaven or otherwise modified in any way. Individual sensory hairs may be removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the horse. Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven, or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule.</p> <p><i>FOR REFERENCE: EA General Regulations as of 1st January 2025:</i></p> <p>Article 141 - Protection of Horses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In cases of a Horse's illness or injury during an Event the Ground Jury will decide, after consulting the Veterinary Delegate or Commission, whether the Horse may continue in that or subsequent Competitions. 2. A Horse's sensory hairs may not be clipped and/or shaven or otherwise modified in <i>any way nor may the hair in the auricles be removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle under penalty of elimination from the event.</i> Individual sensory hairs may be removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse. 3. Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule. Veterinary treatments are exempt from this rule. 4. Horses found competing with clipped/shaven/otherwise modified sensory hairs will be eliminated from the event . 5. <i>From 1st January 2025, horses found competing with hair in the auricles removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle will be issued a recorded warning and from 1st July 2025 will be eliminated from the event.</i>
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<p>1.6.1</p>	<p>Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card</p> <p>A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible (PR) for the following:</p>	<p>Update to bring it in line with any proposed changes to the 2025 EA Dressage rules, as per EA’s Health, Safety & Horse Welfare team</p>	<p>1.6.1 A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed on the parties concerned or the Person Responsible (PR) for the following:</p> <p>a) A Yellow Warning Card must be issued for actions occasioning abuse of horse (an action or omission involving the mistreatment of a horse). Any Incidents considered to be serious Abuse of the Horse may be better further dealt with through the formal protest procedure as outlined in Para Dressage Rule 1.3.1. However, it is possible to both issue a Yellow Warning Card and pursue formal protest procedure-EA General Regulations</p>
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<p>1.6.2</p>	<p>Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card</p> <p>An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card is any of the following</p>	<p>Update to bring it in line with any proposed changes to the 2025 EA Dressage rules, as per EA’s Health, Safety & Horse Welfare team</p>	<p>1.6.2 An Official for the purpose of awarding a Yellow Warning Card is any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an FEI or National-accredited Steward • an EA Technical Delegate – (generally not applicable for PD classes) • an FEI-accredited Judge • an EA National Judge Educator • an EA-accredited A- or B-level Judge <p>*An Official may issue a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card only when officiating at an Event with the exception of reports of horse abuse at the Event where officials with the necessary authority are not present at the event. In these cases the State CEO together with an official from the list above will decide the case and if warranted the Yellow Warning Card will be issued by that Official.</p> <p>They can be hand-delivered or issued by any other suitable means and will state the reason for the warning.</p> <p>For Recorded Warnings only: if none of these persons are present at an Event, the Organising Committee will designate the most senior Judge President of the Ground Jury (see 7.1) to have authority to issue the Recorded Warning, if required.</p>
<p>1.6.3</p>	<p>Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card</p>	<p>To align with <i>current EA Dressage Rule (1.6.4)</i></p>	<p>It is preferable for a Parent/Guardian to be present. It is preferable for a Parent/Guardian to be present when an Athlete under the age of 18 is issued with the Yellow Warning Card.</p>

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1.6.4	Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card	To align with current EA Dressage Rule (1.6.5 & 1.6.6)	<p>1.6.4 Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) at the same or any other Event (whether Australian or International) within one year of the award of the first Yellow Warning Card, the matter shall be referred to the State Branch CEO who shall determine whether to refer the Person Responsible to a Judicial Committee.</p> <p>1.6.4 a) Two (2) or more Recorded Warning Cards. Should the same Person Responsible receive two (2) or more Recorded Warning Cards for any offence, at the same or any Event (International or National) within 12 months of the date of issue of the first Recorded Warning Card, the matter shall be referred to the State Branch CEO who shall determine whether a period of suspension from competition and the length of any suspension, is applicable.</p> <p>1.6.4 b) One (1) or more Recorded Warning Cards. Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) for any offence at the same or any other Event (Australian or International) within 12 months of the date of issue of the first Yellow Warning Card, the matter shall be referred to the State Branch CEO who shall determine whether to refer the Person Responsible to a Judicial Committee</p>
1.6.5	Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card	To align with current EA Dressage Rule (1.6.7)	The Official who gives awards a that Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card , will advise the State Branch CEO (from the State the event occurred in) and State Dressage Committee (from the State that the event occurred in) of the issue of Yellow Warning Card/s or Recorded Warning Card and the reasons for its issue within 48 hours after the delivery of the Yellow w Warning Card to the Person Responsible. The State Branch CEO shall advise EA within 72 hours thereafter. EA will arrange for the Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card issued to be entered into its national database.
1.6.6	Protests, reports, appeals, Yellow Warning Cards and Recorded Warning Card	To align with current EA Dressage Rule (1.6.8)	A Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card is a decision arising from the field of play and as such there is no Appeal against the issuing of a Yellow Warning Card.

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2.4	The Trot	Amendment & Update	2.4 d) all trot may be executed sitting or rising (standard compensating aid) unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.
3.2.1	Key features of Compensating Aids	To align with FEI rules	3.2.1 m) a velcro or thin leather strap (not to exceed 3cms in width) may be used to attach the stirrup leather or the stirrup iron to the girth to assist control of the lower leg where there is an identified need as determined by the Athlete’s functional profile and grade. This must be recorded as a compensating aid on the FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List. The strap must be no less than 5cm in length. If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.
3.5	Dress, saddlery and equipment	Ice vests are permitted under FEI rules. As many para athletes are heat sensitive.	Add to 3.5: (q) ice vests are permitted
3.7.2 c)	Jackets and coats	Amendment	3.7.2 c) states: bright colours such as red, orange, pink, yellow, lime green, and wide contrast stripes and multi-coloured jackets and coats are not permitted. State and National colours are permitted.

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<p>3.11</p>	<p>Spurs</p>	<p>Update as to what is permitted</p>	<p>h) the arms of the spur must be smooth and blunt i) if rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. j) rowels may be either in a vertical or horizontal plane k) rowels in a horizontal plane are not permitted k) soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane are permitted l) pony Athletes, (regardless of age), may only wear spurs that are no longer than 4.0 cm. The length of the spur is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur m) there is no maximum length of spurs for Athletes of horses n) metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are permitted o) dummy spurs with no shank are permitted p) Impulse spurs are permitted n) non-compliance or incorrect spurs will entail elimination r) athletes not in control of spurs, whether intentionally or not, may be asked to remove spurs by the President of the Ground Jury or the Judge at C or Chief Steward</p>
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<p>3.12</p>	<p>Whip</p>	<p>This section needed an update in relation to the use of 2 whips and the penalties for doing so without 2 whips being on an athlete's master list</p>	<p>Whips</p> <p>a) one whip with maximum length of 1 m for ponies and 1.20 m for horses (including tassel) may be carried if required – unless two whips are permitted under FEI Rules PD Master List or EA PD Master List</p> <p>b) <i>[remove b, no need for it as it's mentioned in point c) and update to lettering]</i></p> <p>c) b) any other variation from to conventional or curved whips must be approved and recorded on the FEI or EA PD Master List of Exemptions</p> <p>c) any whip used (as per 3.12 a)) above, may be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the exercise and warm up areas • in all tests • by an Athlete anywhere on the grounds when riding or leading a horse/pony • by other parties, provided it is not used in connection with training a horse/pony <p>d) a lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony</p> <p>e) incorrect length or use of whip will entail elimination (as per annex E)</p> <p>f) use of non permitted whips at any time schooling or warming up, including two whips where not approved will result in elimination.</p>
<p>3.13.1</p>	<p>Saddle</p>	<p>To align with FEI rules</p>	<p>3.13.1</p> <p>e) such a handhold may not be more than 10 cm above the top of the pommel when held. If a hard handhold is essential, it must not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide, and it must be stated on the Athlete's FEI PD Master List or EA PD Master List</p>

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3.13.2	Stirrups	To align with FEI rules	3.13.2 d) Athletes with eligible profiles may be permitted to have a strap from the stirrup or stirrup leather to the girth. This must be stated on their Master List and the strap must be a minimum of 5cm as per rule 3.2.1. If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.
3.14.1	Bridles	To align with FEI rules	3.14.1 n) where ladder reins are permitted, there can be no more than 3 loops on each rein a maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside the loops.
3.20	Table of equipment permitted/not permitted	To align with FEI rules	Table of equipment permitted/not permitted (on page 43) Soft hand hold (hard hand hold must not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide and must be on master list)

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<p>4.10</p>	<p>Dismounting or fall during test</p>	<p>Update on two points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the exception where an athlete falls after the final salute - the athlete may be handed back their whip where necessary 	<p>4.10 Dismounting/Fall during test</p> <p>In regard to dismounting or falling during a test:</p> <p>a) Athletes must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena on penalty of elimination. Refer to 4.10(e) for an exception for a fall after the final salute</p> <p>b) if an Athlete dismounts after entering the arena without a reason acceptable to the judge, no marks will be given to the movement. A dropped whip, hat, spectacles, etc, may be handed to a Athlete. However, in the case of a dropped whip it is preferable this is done at the end of the test when the Athlete has left the arena. It is permitted for the whip to be handed back to the Athlete where it is a necessary compensating aid.</p> <p>g) In addition to the above please refer to current FEI Para Dressage Rules: ARTICLE 8421 PENALTIES – ERRORS – ELIMINATIONS; 5. Eliminations; 5.3. Fall of Horse and/or Athlete</p>
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4.13	Unauthorised assistance	4.13(c) was inconsistent with the FEI rules.	<p>4.13 c) <i>change to:</i> On the grounds of safety, Athletes in Grade I, II, III and Profile 36 (totally blind) may be accompanied around the outside arena by the trainer or their representative before the Test starts. They may be led, but must not be schooled or coached from the ground.</p> <p>c) mounted Athletes may have their horse attached to a lead line when at walk when proceeding to or from the warm up area or competition area but not in or around the competition arena. This will be considered outside assistance and will entail elimination</p>
4.18	Execution of tests	No mention in the rules about the special rules that apply to visually impaired riders to bring in line with FEI rules.	<p><i>Add:</i> c) On the grounds of safety, visually impaired riders may commence the test from inside the arena. They should be given the opportunity to ride inside the arena on each rein before the judge rings the bell to commence the test.</p>
4.20	Penalties, Technical Faults and Errors of Course	4.20 had errors.	<p>Update 4.20 C)</p> <p>The Chief Judge need NOT ring the bell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa • When the reins are not taken in one hand at the salute • when the Athlete makes a transition not clearly at the marker • cantering up the centre line from A, the Athlete makes a pirouette at D instead of at L

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<p>5.9</p>	<p>Conditions of Entry Table</p>	<p>To ensure Trainers are covered by insurance in the event of a fall/accident.</p>	<p>In the below table 5.9 under ATHLETE and above Max EA tests in one day, we need to add: TRAINER</p> <p><i>(1st row under added new TRAINER section):</i> Age – Minimum 18 years old in both Official competition and Participation competition columns</p> <p><i>2ND row under added new TRAINER section):</i> EA Membership – Min participant member with EA in both Official competition and Participation competition columns.</p> <p>5.9 Conditions of Entry table</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="824 692 1585 970"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Conditions of Entry table</th> <th colspan="2">OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION COMPETITION</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>Official competition</th> <th>Participation competition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">HORSE or PONY</td> <td>EA registered</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Competition Licence</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Official bridle number</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Min age of horse</td> <td>6 Years old</td> <td>As per Competitive</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">ATHLETE</td> <td>Age – Minimum</td> <td>Start of year turn 12</td> <td>Start of year turn 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EA Membership</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Min participant member with EA</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Max EA tests In one day (includes Official, Participation, Freestyles)</td> <td>Max 2</td> <td>Max 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Conditions of Entry table		OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION COMPETITION				Official competition	Participation competition	HORSE or PONY	EA registered	Yes	No	Competition Licence	Yes	No	Official bridle number	Yes	No	Min age of horse	6 Years old	As per Competitive	ATHLETE	Age – Minimum	Start of year turn 12	Start of year turn 12	EA Membership	Yes	Min participant member with EA	Max EA tests In one day (includes Official, Participation, Freestyles)		Max 2	Max 2
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<p>6.5.2</p>	<p>Intentionally showing disallowed movements</p>	<p>Update</p>	<p>6.5.2 Intentionally showing disallowed movements</p> <p>An Athlete intentionally showing disallowed paces or movements during the execution of the Test will have eight (8) marks deducted by each Judge each time a not allowed movement is shown, and a choreography mark of five.five (5.5) or below, but will not be eliminated. The decision of the Judge at C will be final in such cases.</p>																																

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7.1	Ground Jury	Further clarity and explain the role of the Ground Jury and the overall role of the President of the Ground Jury as per new EA National Dressage rules 1 st January 2025	<p>7.1 Ground Jury The Ground Jury consists of all the judges at of the event. The Ground Jury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) must be drawn from the current list b) may include suitably accredited visiting overseas judges c) It is recommended that the President of the Ground Jury be appointed each day at an event. The President of the Ground Jury should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The judge positioned at C for the highest-level competition during the event. o Appointed by the OC prior to the start of the event and preferably noted on the draw. o Named each day of the event but may not necessarily be the same person. o Available from the start of the day to the end of the day, or if this is not possible, for the first half or second half of each day at an event. <p>7.1.1 Responsibilities of the Ground Jury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the technical judging of all individual and team competitions b) the allocation and verification of final placings in a competition c) settling all technical problems (in consultation with the appointed President of the Ground Jury) that may arise during the course of the event that come under their jurisdiction within the Field of Play. d) referring any written protests received for 'Horse Abuse' to the OC (refer 1.3.1) e) referring any case which is beyond its jurisdiction to the EA State Branch responsible for the event f) referring any technicalities or matters that are beyond the Ground Jury's jurisdiction to the President of the Ground Jury, Chief Steward, or TD, if appointed at the event in question, or to the State Branch CEO in the form of a written protest (see section 1.3.1). g) If a TD is not appointed, the President of the Ground Jury may act in the capacity of the TD to settle any issues that may arise within the Field of Play and the whole grounds during the event. This should be carried out in consultation with the Chief Steward, as appropriate. <p>The President of the Ground Jury also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has the authority to issue a Recorded Warning (1.6.3) • may refer any incident, which is beyond their jurisdiction, to the OC in the form of a written protest <p>h) at the completion of judging the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by the OC of a competition must, prior to the formal posting of placings, be given the original of the score sheet which has to include riders' and horses' names, individual judge's marks, overall total, percentage and provisional placing.</p> <p>Other tasks of the Ground Jury include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) the Chief Judge/TD/person authorised by OC should approve and sign off the results noting the time of official posting. quickly scan the document and when satisfied, sign and show the time of official posting of placings i) all members of a Ground Jury must remain at the event for at least 30 minutes after the official placings have been posted for the competitions they have judged
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7.1.1	Responsibilities of the Ground Jury	Further clarity and explain the role of the Ground Jury and the overall role of the President of the Ground Jury as per new EA National Dressage rules 1 st January 2025	<p>7.1.1 Responsibilities of the Ground Jury <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>j) the members of the Ground Jury must not take into account consider any unofficial advice or observations from persons who are not members of the Ground Jury, or anything they know beforehand of the competitors or their horses</p> <p>k) at events where a TD/Chief Steward has not been appointed it is recommended that the OC nominate an official to assist with any technicalities that may arise</p>
7.4	Stewards		<p>7.4 Stewards</p> <p>The following categories of Para Dressage accredited Stewards exist:</p> <p>a) Steward General Australia Para Dressage</p> <p>b) Para Dressage accredited FEI Stewards (levels 1,2,3) - 3 is the highest level</p> <p>c) Para Dressage Nationally accredited Stewards -</p> <p>7.4.1 All events running Para tests should ideally have Para accredited Steward in attendance. Exemptions for Club events can be applied for in writing by contacting the EA Para Dressage Committee a minimum of 7 days prior to the event.</p>
7.6	FEI Steward	Correction	<p>7.6 FEI Steward</p> <p>An Para Dressage accredited FEI Steward is to be appointed for FEI-sanctioned events, such as CPEDIs CDIs. The FEI Steward for these events is to be appointed by the Dressage Steward General to ensure that all FEI Stewards are getting the opportunity to maintain their accreditation.</p>

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8.2	Para Dressage Guidelines - Lead Caller also Commander	Wording error	For Blind Athletes, only the lead caller may call command the test and must stand still
9.1.1 c) &	Australian Para Dressage Championships Administration	Needs to be updated to remove the reference to the old 'team test' and replace it with the current FEI test Grand Prix B.	c) there must be 3 FEI competitions at each grade: 1 Grand Prix B FEI Team test , Grand Prix A Special FEI Individual test (Note the title of these tests will change from 1 January 2023 to Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special) , and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test. 2 FEI Intermediate Novice tests (2 at each grade) and optional FEI Intermediate Freestyle test. (These will be named Intermediate from 1 January 2023) 3 FEI Novice Introductory tests (2 at each grade) and optional FEI Novice Freestyle test. (These will be named Novice from 1 January 2023)
9.1.5 d)	Australian Para Dressage Championships State Teams	Needs to be updated to remove the reference to the old 'team test' and replace it with the current FEI test Grand Prix B.	d) the FEI Grand Prix B Team test and the FEI Individual test (Grand Prix and Special) test will count towards a state team's score

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9.12	Competition Conditions	Work in hand. The FEI rules state that any work in hand done by a trainer should be included in the 30 minute trainer times per day. Update to bring in line with FEI rules.	d) lunging or work in-hand by someone other than the nominated Athlete is permitted. Any work-in hand by a trainer for a Grade I, II or III horse will count as part of their 30 minutes training time during that day.
9.2.3	Stewards	From 1 January this will be compulsory so the rules needed to be updated.	It is compulsory highly recommended that an accredited EA/FEI Para Dressage Steward be appointed to oversee the application of permitted compensating aids and the riding of horses belonging to Athletes in Grades I, II and III by other than the nominated Athlete.
9.3	Classification	Clarification	a) classification will be offered at the discretion of the OC/NF and must announced as soon



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9.16	Teams	Needs to be updated to remove the reference to the old 'team test' and replace it with the current FEI test Grand Prix B.	e) the team Para Grand Prix B test will be the highest test at the relevant level
9.19	Appeal Committee	Delete – The old rules referred to the appeal committee in para 9.19. This is now obsolete.	An appeal Committee consisting of a president and 2–4 members must be appointed to make decisions outside the jurisdiction of the Ground Jury.



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9.25	State Dressage Championships	Update as per EA National Dressage Rules	SDAs are to conduct their state championships using the same rules as for the Australian Championships detailed previously in this section, with the following exceptions: a) no qualifying percentage is required b) at least 2 accredited para dressage judges are required to judge each competition c) a minimum of 1 2 interstate (from different states) accredited judges must be on the Ground Jury d) the schedule is to be approved by the EAPEP e) a Chief Steward must be appointed from the current FEI accredited or National Stewards list.
Annex E	Elimination, technical faults, penalties and deductions	Corrections	Annex E - Will entail elimination 1.4.1 & 3.23 3.25 Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not is strictly forbidden at an event Add to Annex E: 1.5 Sensory Hairs - Please refer to the current EA General Regulations: Article 141 - Protection of Horses.
Annex E (continued)	Elimination, technical faults, penalties and deductions	Corrections	Annex E - Will entail elimination Add to Annex E: 3.14.1 o) Wearing a bitless bridle 4.14.2 4.14.1 Riding in or entering competition arena without permission 4.22 3.18 Marked Lameness – no appeal Deduction from Marks in Movements Holding reins in one hand – 4.19 4.1.9
Annex F G	Payment for Officials	Change of Annex lettering needs to be Annex G not F	

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<p>Para Dressage rules changes</p>	<p>The rules refer to EAPEP not the EAPDC due to the creation of the new Para Dressage Committee The rules also refer to the Para equestrian Panel that has been replaced by the Para Dressage Committee</p>	<p><i>Numerous changes throughout the document required to replace EAPEP with EAPDC Para Equestrian Panel with Para Dressage Committee</i></p> <p>Article numbers and page numbers referenced for each wording change:</p> <p>4.25 Number/Level of judges required for Official Competitive and Official Participation Competitions – 3 references of EAPEP – change to EAPDC (page 56)</p> <p>7.3 Chef d’Equipe – i) (page 69)</p> <p>9.1.1 Australian Para Dressage Championships Administration – a), d), e) (page 78)</p> <p>9.8 State Para Dressage Championships d) (page 81)</p> <p>9.10 Administration a) (page 81)</p> <p>9.14 Other requirements a) (page 82)</p> <p>9.21 Organising Committee Report (page 83)</p> <p>9.25 State Dressage Championships d) (page 84)</p> <p>Contents Table needs updating due to numerous changes</p> <p>8.6 – the old rules had a nonsensical reference to 4.17 with no explanation</p> <p>Recommendation: Delete old 8.6 and update the remainder of section 8 paragraph numbers</p>
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