

**PONY
CLUB**



participation • pride • welfare • safety • education

195-292 NPO

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB DRESSAGE RULES

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South African Pony Club Dressage Rules 2017

As a Member of the South African Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being.

I shall endeavour to treat my horse with consideration.

THE PONY CLUB DRESSAGE OBJECTIVES

The object of the Competition is to stimulate interest and enjoyment in Dressage and correct training of the horse, thereby encouraging Members to improve their riding by acquiring and establishing an independent seat, and a true knowledge of the aids.

The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with his 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 in a lively impulsion
- The acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance

PREAMBLE

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they are complying with the rules of the competition.

GENERAL

Except where varied below, all Pony Club Dressage competitions shall be run under the auspices of Dressage SA Rules (revised March 2014).

It is the responsibility of each member to familiarize themselves with these rules prior to any competition. These rules can be found on the Dressage SA website – www.dressagesa.com.

1 THE TESTS

- 1.1 All tests used shall come from the Dressage SA official book of tests. The tests used for any Eventing Dressage classes shall come from Eventing SA website.

2 CALLING OF TESTS

- 2.1 Competitors at every level, including the inter-regional open classes, shall have the option of having the test called.
- 2.2 Only the wording printed on the official test may be called and may be repeated.
- 2.3 Competitors shall provide their own callers.
- 2.4 Any error in riding the test, whether by reason of faulty calling or not, shall be penalised as per rule 8 below.
- 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.
- 2.6 If an 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 8 below)

3 ARENAS

- 3.1 All Tests are ridden in an arena of 60 X 20 metres or 40 X 20 metres as per the official test, on flat and level ground.
- 3.2 The arena shall be set up in accordance with Dressage SA Dressage Rules 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 five metre limit.
- 3.3 The arena surrounds shall not be constructed of any material that may cause a horse to take fright or cause injury.
- 3.4 The arena should be completely closed and the minimum height of the surround should be between 25 and 30cm.

4 RIDING IN THE ARENA

- 4.1 On penalty of elimination, no horse either ridden or lead, may enter the competition arena(s) except when actually competing unless special permission to do so has been granted by the Show Director and Regional Chairperson.
- 4.2 Competitors must wait until the judge has sounded the horn, rung the bell or in some other way signified that he may start, before entering the arena. Failure to do so may lead to elimination.
- 4.3 Any horse failing to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded shall be eliminated.
- 4.4 Should the construction of the arena make it impossible for the competitor to ride round the outside before the judge's signal to enter is sounded, he may on the instruction of the Organiser and/or Judge, ride inside the arena.

5 JUDGES

- 5.1 Inter-branch competitions and other events
 - 5.1.1 The use of Dressage Judges on Regional Dressage SA authorised panels is preferred.

5.1.2 Judges shall be appointed by the Organising Committee.

5.1.3 The senior judge shall serve on the Jury of Appeal.

5.2 Inspection of the arenas

5.2.1 It is the ultimate responsibility of the Judges to check that the Arenas are satisfactory and to have them modified at their discretion.

6 JUDGING OF TESTS

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

6.2 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.

6.3 The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performance warrants their use.

6.4 By 'not executed' is meant that nothing which is required for the movement has been performed.

6.5 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 authorisation. No alteration may be made to marks once the test sheets have been handed to the recorder, unless a mark has been omitted, or an error spotted.

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

7 SCORING

7.1 The Judge may award marks for each movement of the test in a range of 10 to 0. Half marks may be given.

7.2 These marks are then added together and any penalty marks are deducted.

7.3 The score is converted to a percentage.

7.4 In the event of equality of total marks, the total of the collective marks at the end of the test will be used to determine ranking. Should these collective marks also be equal, the competitors concerned shall be given the same placing.

7.5 In the case of two or more Judges the totals, after deduction of penalty points from each judge's totals, are added together to give the competitor's score.

7.6 After the tests have been totalled, the percentage should be worked out. Then the mark and the percentage should be displayed on the scoreboard in two separate columns.

7.7 Scale of marks

7.7.1 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	Marginal		

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

- Paces
- Impulsion
- Submission
- The rider's position and seat, correctness and effectiveness of the aids.

7.7.3 Each collective mark is awarded 0 to 10.

8 ERRORS OF COURSE OR TEST

- 8.1 When a competitor makes an error of course (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the Judge warns him, by sounding the bell. The Judge 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.
- 8.2 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 walk at V instead of K, or cantering up the centreline from A, makes a pirouette at D instead of L – it is up to the judge to decide whether to ring the bell or not.
- 8.3 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 penalised once.
- 8.4 The decision whether or not an error of course was made will be that of the Judge.
- 8.5 In the case of more than one Judge being used, the senior Judge will decide.
- 8.6 The other Judges' scores will be adjusted accordingly.
- 8.7 Every error of course whether the bell was sounded or not, must be penalised:
- 8.7.1 The first time by 2 points
 - 8.7.2 The second time by 4 points
 - 8.7.3 The third time, the competitor is eliminated, except when, as noted above.
- 8.8 In principle a competitor may not repeat a movement of a test unless the Judge 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.
- 8.9 If the Judge has not noticed the error, the competitor will not be penalised.
- 8.10 Errors made contrary to test instructions (such as rising instead of sitting trot) will be penalised by the deduction of two marks from those awarded for each movement in which the error occurs.
- 8.11 Even after elimination, the competitor may continue his performance to the end, the marks being awarded in the ordinary way, although the total final score obviously need not be calculated nor recorded.

9 SCORE SHEETS

- 9.1 Judges' score sheets shall be available to competitors after the final classification of the competition has been announced.
- 9.2 In the event of an objection being lodged the applicable score sheets must be returned to the Judges.
- 9.3 Judge's score sheets shall be completed, audited and signed prior to being handed to competitors.

- 9.4 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.

10 RIDING OF TESTS

10.1 RIDING ORDER

- 10.1.1 After entries have been received, the order of riding shall be drawn, but at the organisers discretion.
- 10.1.2 Due regard may be given to the convenience of branches traveling great distances and for competitors riding on more than one horse.
- 10.1.3 This order shall be maintained throughout the competition.
- 10.1.4 Competitors may NOT ride out of order. Any request to ride out of order must be referred to the Show Director whose permission will only be granted if circumstances warrant such changes and where the programme can accommodate such changes.
- 10.1.5 The 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 riding.

10.2 SALUTE

- 10.2.1 Competitors must take the reins in one hand at the salute. He/she drops a hand in the salute to the Judge. 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.

10.3 FALLS

- 10.3.1 In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be penalised by elimination.

10.4 VOICE

- 10.4.1 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.

10.5 RESISTANCE

- 10.5.1 Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds is penalised by elimination. However, resistance that may endanger rider, horse, Judges or the public will be penalised by elimination for safety reasons earlier than within 20 seconds. Grinding of teeth and swishing of tail are signs of nervousness, tenseness, or resistance on the part of the horse and can be taken into account by the Judges in their marks for the movement concerned as well as in the appropriate collective mark at the end.

10.6 DISMOUNTING

- 10.6.1 A rider who dismounts in the arena without reason acceptable to the Jury, shall be eliminated. A rider must however, comply with the hat rule. This may be done either by

dismounting, or an assistant on the ground may retrieve it and give it to the competitor. This will not be penalised.

10.7 LEAVING THE ARENA

10.7.1 All riders must leave the arena at A after performing a test. A horse leaving the arena with all four feet will incur the following penalty:

10.7.2 Elimination

If the horse leaves a fully enclosed arena with a surround of a minimum of 25cm.

If the horse leaves an arena as described above but open at A, at any point other than A.

10.7.3 No point for the Current Movement:

If the horse leaves an arena at an opening at A.

If the horse leaves an arena with a surround lower than 25cm.

If the horse leaves an arena that is not completely enclosed.

10.7.4 When the arena is marked by a line only, or intermittent boards, it is left to the discretion of the Judges as to the marks deducted.

10.7.5 For the purposes of defining a horse leaving the arena during the test, the test begins when the horse enters at A, and finishes with the final halt.

10.8 COMMENCEMENT

10.8.1 After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell was sounded will entail elimination. 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.

10.9 RETIREMENT

10.9.1 If a competitor retires from a test he/she must inform the Judge of this intention by raising a hand or saluting.

10.10 BROKEN TACK

10.10.1 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.

10.11 ACCURACY OF MARKERS

10.11.1 In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it is at the moment when the rider's body is above this point that the movement should be executed, 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.

11 LAMENESS

- 11.1 In the case of marked lameness the Judge informs the rider that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. If there is any doubt as to the soundness of a horse, the competitor will be allowed to complete the test provided no sign of distress is evident and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised.

12 SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

- 12.1 Our first concern is the safety of equipment. Saddlery and Equipment shall be correctly fitted at all times, clean, and un-broken (stitching must be intact, leather not cracked, etc).

12.2 SADDLES

12.2.1 Dressage saddles are not compulsory for Elementary-Medium levels. General purpose saddles may be used for the lower grades

12.2.2 Saddle covers are not permitted. Cruppers on ponies are not permitted. Breastplates and neck straps are permitted.

12.3 NUMNAHS AND SADDLE CLOTHS:

12.3.1 Should be neat and not larger than necessary. Gel, air, foam or sheepskin pads may be used under saddles. Branch numnahs displaying branch colours and the Pony Club logo may be allowed at the Show Organiser's discretion.

12.4 BRIDLES

12.4.1 Shall be as per instruction on the official tests. Padding is allowed on bridles both under the bridle and stitched into the leather. Bitless bridles are not allowed.

12.5 PERMITTED BITS:

12.5.1 All bits permitted by Dressage SA Rules are allowed depending on the test ridden.

12.5.2 Bitguards are NOT permitted.

12.5.3 The minimum diameter of snaffle bits at the bars of the horse's mouth has been fixed at 10mm. 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.

12.5.4 Pelhams with connectors are allowed for Pony Rider Preliminary classes only.

12.5.5 When using a double bridle, the bridoon and curb bits is limited to 10cm (length below the mouthpiece.) If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb below the mouthpiece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.

12.5.6 It is acceptable that there should 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 a horse, together with the best schooling principles, should be the only consideration.

12.6 NOSEBANDS

12.6.1 Should be correctly fitted and should not cause discomfort.

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12.6.2 Either a dropped noseband or a Cavesson noseband 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 judge shall be final.

12.6.3 A Mexican noseband or crossed/flash noseband is also permitted with a snaffle bridle.

12.7 WHIPS

12.7.1 A whip may be carried during the test.

12.7.2 Whip length may not exceed a total maximum length of 110cm (excluding the tassel). The use of this whip is also allowed in the practise arena. Only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lunging (using a standard length lunge whip) a horse, is allowed to carry a whip anywhere on the show ground. The groom may also walk, lead or lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip providing it is not in connection with the training of the horse.

12.7.3 A whip may not be picked up if dropped during a test.

12.7.4 A whip may be carried in either hand, but must be in the rein hand when saluting.

12.7.5 The use of more than one whip anywhere on the show grounds shall not be permitted.

12.7.6 If misused, in the opinion of the Judge, the rider will be eliminated.

12.8 SPURS

12.8.1 Spurs may be worn at rallies and other events with the express permission of the District Commissioner.

12.8.2 Members without the B test should carry proof of this permission.

12.8.3 Only blunt spurs without rowels, or sharp edges, may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn.

12.9 PROHIBITED SADDLERY

12.9.1 The following is not permitted
Martingales and any kind of gadget (such as bearing, side, check running or balancing reins etc.) are not allowed.

12.9.2 Boots and bandages may be worn while warming up, but not during a test.

12.9.3 Blinkers, fly fringes, gauzes are not allowed.

12.9.4 The Judges may authorise the strapping of a wound with Elastoplast or similar material provided he is satisfied that such a strapping up in no way affects the soundness of the horse.

12.9.5 Any extravagant decorations such as ribbons or flowers etc. in the tail are strictly forbidden. Normal plaiting of the horse's mane or tail however, is allowed. False tails are permitted only with prior permission from the Judge. False tails may have no metal parts.

12.9.6 Lunging in side reins, but not bearing, check, running, balancing reins or any kind of gadget, is allowed when exercising or warming up the horse without a rider.

12.9.7 Competitors using Saddlery and Gadgets which are not permitted in the competition will be eliminated.

13 DISABLED RIDERS

- 13.1 Disabled riders are allowed to compete using compensatory aids according to their respective degree of disability as defined by the Paralympics Equestrian Committee.

14 DRESS

14.1 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

- 14.1.1 Wearing protective headgear which includes a retaining harness secured to the shell at more than three points, with the chin strap correctly and securely fastened, is compulsory for anyone mounted on a horse at all times.
- 14.1.2 Only protective headgear manufactured to EN1384, ASTM F1163 or PAS 015 or SNELL E2001 with Kite Mark or SEI or such other suitable protective headgear as offers a similar or higher level of protection may be worn.
- 14.1.3 The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward.
- 14.1.4 Hats should be replaced after a severe impact, as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending on the amount of use.
- 14.1.5 The Official Steward/Organiser will eliminate any competitor riding without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened, except under the circumstances below,
- A competitor whose hat comes off or chinstrap comes undone, whilst riding in the competition must, on penalty of elimination, replace it, or do it up, before continuing.
 - The competitor may dismount without penalty to recover the hat or have it passed up from the ground, or they may stop without penalty to do up the chinstrap.

14.2 BREECHES

- 14.2.1 Breeches or jodhpurs must be white, beige or cream.

14.3 JACKETS

- 14.3.1 Black, navy or tweed jackets may be worn.

14.4 BOOTS

- 14.4.1 Long black boots or black leather leggings may be worn. Jodhpur boots may be worn with jodhpurs.

14.5 SHIRTS

- 14.5.1 White or conservative colour or pattern

14.6 TIES

- 14.6.1 Pony Club tie must be worn for correct formal dress.

14.7 GLOVES

- 14.7.1 May be white, black, navy or shades of cream.

14.7.2 ALL competitors must wear gloves.

14.8 JEWELLERY

14.8.1 NO jewellery is allowed (see Rule 22.8.1 of SAPC Rules). This rule applies to all mounted activities.

14.8.2 For safety reasons, no jewellery (including “sleepers”) may be worn, other than a wedding ring, a wristwatch, a stock pin worn horizontally, or a tie clip. Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to participate in mounted activities until such time as the “sleepers” can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls. There are vulnerable blood vessels around the ear and, in addition, if the facial nerve is pierced, partial paralysis of the face can occur.

14.9 HAIR

14.9.1 In the interest of safety, long hair should be secured appropriately.

14.10 ELECTRONIC DEVICES

14.10.1 Electronic devices such as headphones, mobile phones etc. are not allowed whilst the rider is competing or in the practice/warm up arena.

14.10.2 Electronic devices enabling another person to communicate with the rider are allowed while the rider is in the practice/ warm up arena but not allowed whilst the rider is competing

14.11 It is the responsibility of competitors that their dress and saddlery are in accordance with the rules. Contravention may incur elimination.

15 EXERCISING AND/OR WARMING UP

15.1 Competitors should exercise their horses in the area provided. They shall not exercise in the car park or horsebox area or among spectators. They must not enter or practise in the competition dressage arenas on penalty of elimination.

15.2 When mounted, all riders must wear protective headgear secured by a three point harness as in rule 14.1 above.

15.3 Whilst exercising any horse, competitors may only use a permitted snaffle or simple double bridle. Competitors competing in Pony Rider preliminary classes may ride with a Pelham with rein connectors.

15.4 On the day of the Competition, horses competing may be ridden only by their competitors, or in exceptional circumstances, and with the permission of the Official Steward/Organiser, by another member of the same team.

15.5 Persons other than the competitor may lunge a horse, or horse and rider.

15.6 When riding in a restricted area pass left hand to left hand when meeting another rider coming towards you. Do not pass so close as to upset the other horse.

15.7 Make tack adjustments in a safe area without causing obstruction.

15.8 Whilst exercising, boots, bandages, running martingales, breastplates and neck straps are permitted to be worn.

15.9 Side reins may be used only when lunging (unridden) but not bearing, running or balancing reins of any kind, neither are lunge lines attached from the girth or any part of the saddle or surcingle permitted (i.e., only one

lunge line is allowed). A side rein is a rein (with or without elastic or rubber insets) going direct, with no other attachments or gadgets, from a girth or surcingle to the bit or to the rein attachments of a lunging cavesson if used.

15.10 Lunging may only be done in arenas not designated for riding.

15.11 Rainproof saddle covers may be used to protect saddles from rain.

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

16 CONCUSSION

16.1 Any member who falls off their pony during a rally or competition, must undergo a medical examination by the paramedic/doctor on duty and be given the 'all clear' before being allowed to remount.

16.2 In the event of concussions, which may occur without the loss of consciousness, riders will not be allowed to ride again that day.

17 PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS

17.1 Apart from the Official Steward and the Officials of the Competition, only District Commissioners or their representatives are entitled to lodge protests or objections.

17.2 Protests must be made in writing and addressed to the Regional Chairperson or the Show Organiser. The protest must be accompanied by a deposit which is forfeit unless the Jury of Appeal decides that there were good and reasonable grounds for the objection. Such monies must be paid to the relevant Regional Committee of the S.A. Pony Club. Protests or objections must be made not later than half an hour after the scores have been published.

17.3 The Official Steward or Show organizer shall give their decision in the first instance. If this is not accepted, the Jury of Appeal shall give their decision after investigation and this decision is final.

18 JURY OF APPEAL

18.1 The Jury shall consist of the Official Steward, one of the Judges and the Show Organiser.

19 ABUSE OF THE HORSE

19.1 All forms of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment of Horses, which include, but are not limited to various forms of rapping, are strictly forbidden.

20 EXCESSIVE USE OF THE WHIP

20.1 The whip may not be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.

20.2 The whip is never to be used overhand, (for example a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse's head is always excessive use.

20.3 An Athlete identified as misusing or excessively using the whip will be disqualified and may be fined at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

21 DISQUALIFICATION

21.1 The official steward or Chief Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition for dangerous riding;

21.1.1 If, in his opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted

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21.1.2 For misuse of whip or spur, or ill-treatment of the horse

21.1.3 For any breach of the rules

21.1.4 For unseemly behaviour, including bad language.

Approved at the National AGM of 4th – 5th February 2017

Approved and accepted by:

National Chairperson	:	Leann Morecroft-Davies
Western Cape Regional Chairperson	:	Cindy Muller
KZN Regional Chairperson	:	Rene Ford
Gauteng & Limpopo Regional Chairperson	:	Michéllie MacKenzie